

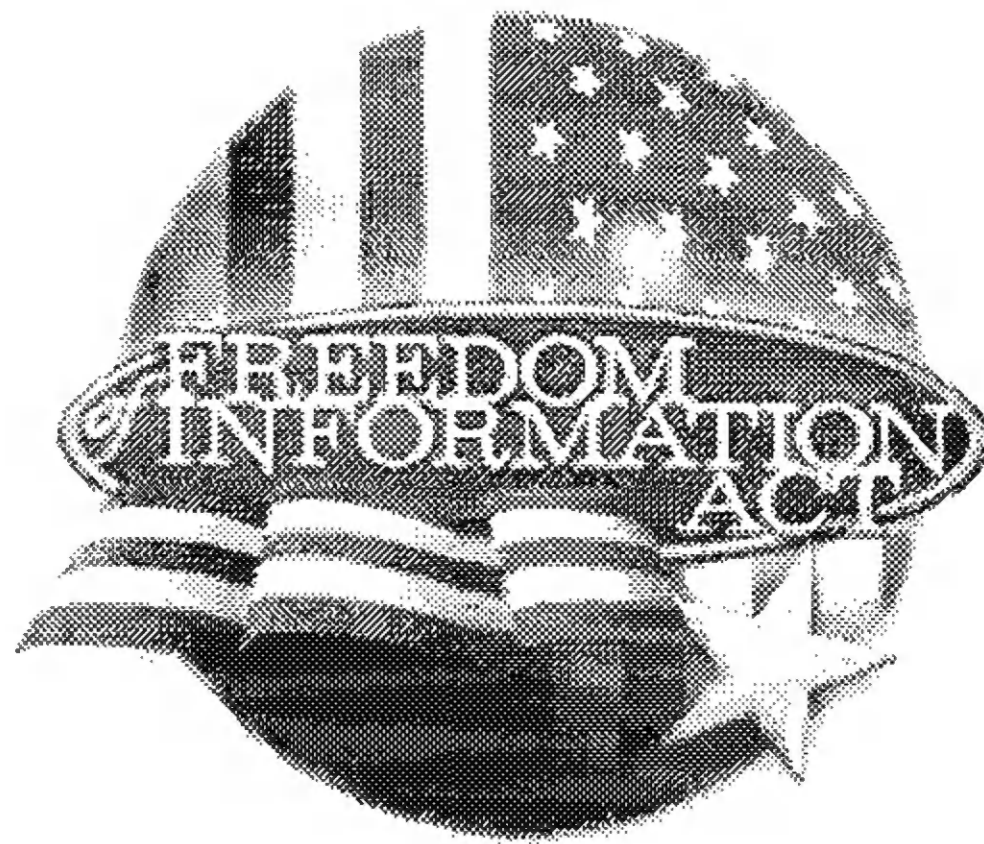
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

FILE NUMBER: 100-106670

MAIN FILE

SECTION:87



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**THE BEST COPY
OBTAINABLE IS
INCLUDED IN THE
REPRODUCTION OF
THESE DOCUMENTS.
PAGES INCLUDED THAT
ARE BLURRED, LIGHT, OR
OTHERWISE DIFFICULT
TO READ ARE THE
RESULT OF THE
CONDITION OF THE
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.
NO BETTER COPY CAN BE
REPRODUCED.**

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MAIN FILE

100-106670

SECTION 87

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

FROM : G. C. Moore *ga*

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNISM

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop

DATE: July 2, 1969

1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
1 - Mr. J. J. Dunn
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Pursuant to your request there is set forth below the information concerning the dissemination and subsequent recall of a document captioned "Communism and the Negro Movement - A Current Analysis," dated 10/16/63.

The above document was disseminated on a ~~Top Secret~~ basis to the Attorney General, with a copy each for the Deputy Attorney General and the Assistant Attorneys General Burke Marshall and J. Walter Yeagley. In addition, a copy each was sent to P. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President, Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, John McCone, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, Rear Admiral Rufus L. Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence, Major General Alva R. Fitch, Assistant Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence, Brigadier General John S. Samuel, Director of Special Investigations for the Air Force and General D. M. Shoup, Commandant of the Marine Corps. The dissemination was recommended and approved by memoranda dated 10/15/63 captioned "Communism and the Negro Movement-- A Current Analysis," and 10/18/63, same caption, both from Mr. W. C. Sullivan to A. H. Belmont. (Xerox of each attached). The dissemination to General Shoup was authorized by memorandum dated 10/25/63 from D. J. Brennan, Jr., to Mr. W. C. Sullivan captioned "Request From Commandant, Marine Corps, for Top Secret Document Entitled 'Communism and the Negro Movement - A Current Analysis,'" (Xerox attached). In addition, on an Informative Note dated 12/2/63 (Xerox attached) there is a notation that the Top Secret summary was made available to President Johnson by Mr. DeLoach and it was returned the next day.

By memorandum dated 10/25/63 (Xerox attached) from Director, John Edgar Hoover to Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, DeLoach, Rosen and Sullivan, the Director stated that the Attorney General felt we should get back all copies of the document captioned "Communism and the Negro Movement - A Current Analysis" dated 10/16/63. In accordance with the Director's instructions, all copies were retrieved from the individuals to whom they were disseminated.

ACTION: *5* JUL 1 1969 your information.

Enclosures

JGD: rmm

(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/kl

6076

240

5

JUL 1 1969

JGD: rmm

(7)

gas/Dr WEL & DJS V

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

DATE: 10-15-63

FROM

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT--
A CURRENT ANALYSISALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-19-81 BY SP4 JAM/LL

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

CLASSIFIED AND
EXTENDED BY SP4 JAM/LL
REASON FOR EXTENSION
DATE OF REVIEW FOR
DECLASSIFICATION
1-2-4-2

The enclosed article is a factual, documented analysis of the over-all current situation. We believe that it would be of interest not only to the Attorney General but also to Mr. O'Donnell, at the White House; Mr. McCone, at the Central Intelligence Agency; Mr. Rusk, at the Department of State; as well as to Mr. McNamara and the three Armed Forces intelligence agencies of the Defense Department. Accordingly, if the article as prepared is approved, we propose to disseminate it to the afore-mentioned individuals and agencies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the enclosed article be approved. If approved, it should be returned to the Domestic Intelligence Division for preparation of appropriate letters of transmittal.

Enc

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Research - Satellite Section

CDB:dww

(6)

REC 7

OCT 23 1963

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: 10-18-63

FROM : W. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT: COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT--
A CURRENT ANALYSIS

Re my memo in captioned matter 10-15-63, attached, in which it was recommended and approved that we disseminate the prepared analysis regarding communist activities and the Negro movement on a select basis to individuals and agencies set forth in referenced memo.

Attached are appropriate letters of transmittal for dissemination. Through them, we are sending a copy of the analysis to the Attorney General, with a copy each for the Deputy Attorney General, and the Assistant Attorneys General Burke Marshall and J. Walter Yeagley. In addition, a copy is being sent as an enclosure to attached letters for P. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President; the Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary of State; the Honorable John A. McCone, Director of Central Intelligence Agency; the Honorable Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense; Rear Admiral Rufus L. Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence; Major General Alva R. Fitch, Assistant Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence; and Brigadier General John S. Samuel, Director of Special Investigations for the Air Force.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letters be approved and sent.

Enclosures

CDB:jej
(10)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan
- 1 - Mr. R. W. Smith
- 1 - Section tickler
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan

31 NOV 6 1963

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

Tolson ☒
Belmont ☒
Casper ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Malone ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4JAM/ML
6076

UNITED STATES

AGENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO :

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: October 25, 1963

FROM :

D. J. Brennan, Jr.

SUBJECT:

REQUEST FROM COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS,
FOR TOP SECRET DOCUMENT ENTITLED
"COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT -
A CURRENT ANALYSIS"

On 10/24/63, Major Henry R. Marshall, Counterintelligence Branch, U. S. Marine Corps, personally requested a copy of captioned report, which had been disseminated to Admiral Rufus Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence. According to Major Marshall, Marine Commandant David J. Shoup had expressed a personal desire to review this information and inasmuch as his office had not been furnished this data, he requested that an extra copy be disseminated to him.

In accordance with General Shoup's request, a copy was furnished to Major Marshall on 10/24/63. Major Marshall was impressed with the extremely sensitive nature of the information set forth in the document and was appropriately admonished to insure that proper security is afforded it.

ACTION:

For information.

LPK:mls (6)
1-Mr. Belmont
1-Mr. Sullivan
1-Mr. R. W. Smith
1-Mr. Keenan
1-Liaison

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-4-81 BY SP4JAM/ML
6076

REC- 83

OCT 28 1963

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-4-81 BY SP4 JPM/14

6072

5-13 (11-10-61)

Domestic Intelligence Division

DEC 6 1963

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 12/2/63

Attached is Atlanta teletype 12/3/63 indicating Martin Luther King will meet with President Johnson 11:30 a.m., 12/3/63.

Also attached is the summary, "Communism and the Negro Movement--A Current Analysis," which we prepared on King. This memorandum was disseminated and later all copies were recalled, at request of the AG.

This information re King will be of vital interest to the President. We suggest that Walter W. Jenkins, Assistant to the President, be orally briefed by Assistant Director DeLoach regarding the background of King. The attached TOP SECRET summary contains data which may be utilized for the briefing.

SBD:csb

NOTE

The Top Secret Summary was made available to Pres. Johnson by DeLoach - The Pres. returned the Summary as received & returned it to the R. - 4:10 p.m. - per T.D.B.

100-106670-3638
ENCLOSURE 5/8

ENCLOSURE

4:14 p.m.

October 25, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. MOHR
MR. DE LOACH
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN

The Attorney General called and advised me there was a lot of talk in the Pentagon regarding the document, Communism and the Negro - A Current Analysis, dated 10-15-53, which had been disseminated to the military and intelligence agencies by the Bureau. The Attorney General anticipated that this information would leak out as the military didn't like the Negroes.

The Attorney General felt we should get back all copies of the document. I told him we had a tally of all copies and we would get them from all agencies to which they were disseminated. The reason to be given for recalling would be revisions. I also told him if any newspapers asked about this, no comment would be made and no mention would be made that such a document existed.

4:45 p.m.

I advised the Attorney General that liaison representatives had been sent to get all copies of this document.

The Attorney General wants all copies disseminated to Department officials recalled also.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMD/ld

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

REC-22

| |
|-----------------|
| SENT FROM D. O. |
| TIME 12:55 PM |
| DATE 22-1-67 |
| BY 012811 |

ENCLOSURE

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____

RECEIVED
(10)

100-106670-3638

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Room 5714 _____, 1969

TO:

____ Director
 ____ Mr. DeLoach
 ____ Mr. Mohr
 ____ Mr. Bishop
 ____ Mr. Gale
 ____ Mr. Rosen
 ____ Mr. Callahan
 ____ Mr. Casper
 ____ Mr. Conrad
 ____ Mr. Felt
 ____ Mr. Sullivan
 ____ Mr. Tavel
 ____ Mr. Trotter
 ____ Mr. Beaver
 ____ Miss Gandy
 ____ Miss Holmes
 ____ Personnel Files Section
 ____ Records Branch
 ____ Mrs. Skillman
 ____ Mrs. Brown
 ____ John Quander

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. DeLoach | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Bishop | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
| Mr. Conrad | _____ |
| Mr. Felt | _____ |
| Mr. Gale | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Miss Holmes | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

See Me
 Send File
 Please Call Me

For appropriate action
 Note and Return

Clyde Tolson

[REDACTED]

CHICAGO ILLINOIS 80611

b7(c)

Clyde Tolson
Associate Director
Federal Bureau of
Justice Department
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Mr. Tolson | ✓ |
| Mr. DeLoach | ✓ |
| Mr. Mohr | ✓ |
| Mr. Bishop | ✓ |
| Mr. Casper | ✓ |
| Mr. Callahan | ✓ |
| Mr. Conrad | ✓ |
| Mr. Felt | ✓ |
| Mr. Gale | ✓ |
| Mr. Rosen | ✓ |
| Mr. Sullivan | ✓ |
| Mr. Tavel | ✓ |
| Mr. Trotter | ✓ |
| Tele. Room | ✓ |
| Miss Holmes | ✓ |
| Miss Gandy | ✓ |

Call 50
JUN 20 1969

VIA AIR



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/12

6072 0

Not a letter

ORIGINAL FILED IN

NOT RECORDED
48 JUN 30 1969

ENCLOSURE
ENCLOSURE ATTACHED
51 JUL 17 1969

CRIME RESEARCH

COMMUNICATIONS

June 19, 1969

Clyde: Thought you'd appreciate

contribution of

to the following, Regards.

MIKE
ROYL

FBI's tapping of King phones

The FBI has a lot more explaining to do about its motives for spying on the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

It has publicly described as "malicious" a column written by Carl Rowan that criticized the tapping of Dr. King's phones.

Clyde Tolson, associate FBI director, says the wiretapping was done for "national security" reasons, with the approval of the late Robert Kennedy, then attorney general.

That doesn't come even close to telling it.

ONE THING IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN, is the following incident:

About four years ago, an ex-FBI agent I knew asked me to join him for a round of golf.

After the round, we sat in the clubhouse chatting. He worked the conversation around to Dr. King.

He told me the FBI had been using a variety of electronic eavesdropping devices on Dr. King. Besides tapping his phone, they had planted listening devices in hotel rooms he used while traveling.

The result, he said, was a very thick file on Dr. King.

He gave me some examples.

They were very personal things. They were things I'm sure Dr. King would not want anyone else to know about. If you bugged almost anyone's bedroom long enough, you would hear things that person didn't want anyone else to know about.

BUT NONE OF THE THINGS this ex-FBI agent told me reflected in any way on Dr. King's loyalty, his Americanism, or seemed to be remotely related to national security.

Nor did they reflect on his role as a leader in the civil rights crusade, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, or a figure of historic importance.

I asked the ex-FBI agent if his information was merely gossip or if he was sure about it.

He said he had visited J. Edgar Hoover in Washington and had been briefed on the contents of the King file.

It was not uncommon, he said, for trusted ex-agents to be let in on such things.

Obviously, I was supposed to be shocked by the things he told me. And I was. But not for the reasons he assumed.

The shocking part of it was that he was actually sitting there telling me such things.

They were none of my business, and they were none of his business. They were nobody's business but Dr. King's.

IT WAS PLAIN OLD MUD-SLINGING, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-pecking publications.

There was no doubt in my mind then, and none now, that it was being leaked to me for the purpose of discrediting Dr. King.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

And it doesn't take much imagination to figure out why. Dr. King and Hoover had engaged in a furious public quarrel. Hoover, quite clearly, did not like Dr. King.

That's why I suggest the FBI hasn't given an adequate explanation.

If the wiretapping was being done for national security, I presume that it should have been kept a big secret.

Secret? How much of a secret was it if a newspaper columnist in Chicago knew of the eavesdropping? Or if a former agent — a private citizen — could talk about it?

(For the record, the ex-agent was not a two-bit gumshoe given to flights of fancy. He was then a well known and highly respected investigator. He is today a famous and powerful man.)

AND IS THE PURPOSE OF SUCH official eavesdropping to gather spite material, transom-pecking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion-makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger from Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'm

b7(c)

100-106670-1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-11-81 BY SP4 JAM/ld

dent:

About four years ago, an ex-FBI agent I knew asked me to him for a round of golf.

After the round, we sat in the clubhouse chatting. He worked the conversation around to Dr. King.

He told me the FBI had been using a variety of electronic eavesdropping devices on Dr. King. Besides tapping his phone, they had planted listening devices in hotel rooms he used while traveling.

The result, he said, was a very thick file on Dr. King.

He gave me some examples.

They were very personal things. They were things I'm sure Dr. King would not want anyone else to know about. If you bugged almost anyone's bedroom long enough, you would hear things that person didn't want anyone else to know about.

BUT NONE OF THE THINGS this ex-FBI agent told me reflected in any way on Dr. King's loyalty, his Americanism, or seemed to be remotely related to national security.

Nor did they reflect on his role as a leader in the civil rights crusade, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, or a figure of historic importance.

I asked the ex-FBI agent if his information was merely gossip or if he was sure about it.

He said he had visited J. Edgar Hoover in Washington and had been briefed on the contents of the King file.

It was not uncommon, he said, for trusted ex-agents to be let in on such things.

Obviously, I was supposed to be shocked by the things he told me. And I was. But not for the reasons he assumed.

The shocking part of it was that he was actually sitting there telling me such things.

They were none of my business, and they were none of his business. They were nobody's business but Dr. King's.

IT WAS PLAIN OLD MUD-SLINGING, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-peeking publications.

There was no doubt in my mind then, and none now, that it was being leaked to me for the purpose of discrediting Dr. King.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

And it doesn't take much imagination to figure out why. Dr. King and Hoover had engaged in a furious public quarrel. Hoover, quite clearly, did not like Dr. King.

That's why I suggest the FBI hasn't given an adequate explanation.

If the wiretapping was being done for national security, I presume that it should have been kept a big secret.

Secret? How much of a secret was it if a newspaper columnist in Chicago knew of the eavesdropping? Or if a former agent — a private citizen — could talk about it?

(For the record, the ex-agent was not a two-bit gumshoe given to flights of fancy. He was then a well known and highly respected investigator. He is today a famous and powerful man.)

AND IS THE PURPOSE OF SUCH official eavesdropping to gather spite material, transom-peeking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion-makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger from Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'll gladly second Rowan's suggestion that Hoover be replaced.

The scandal-sheet business should be left to private industry.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-11 BY 844 JAM/16

Office of the Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Congressman Edmondson:

Thank you for your extension of remarks
which appeared in the Congressional Record of June 24th.
It was indeed thoughtful of you to comment as you did and
have inserted into the Record the article from "The Eve-
ning Star" of June 19th concerning the Martin Luther
King, Jr., wiretap controversy.

I certainly appreciate your continuing staunch
support and it means a great deal to me.

Sincerely yours,

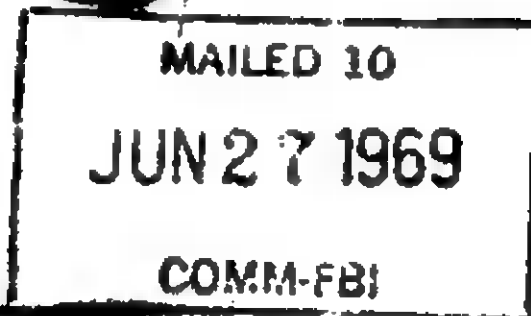
J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Oklahoma City

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-87 BY SP4 JPM/ML
6076

NOTE: Congressman Edmondson is on the Special Correspondents List.

CEE:llk (5)



ENCLOSURE

JUN 26 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

25 JUN 30 1969

NOT RECORDED

165 JUL 1 1969

ALL IN
HERE
DATE

FBI CTR

HON. ROBERT F. KENNEDY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TESTIMONY

MR. EDMUND BRENNAN, of the Washington Evening Star, said that in recent months the wiretapping controversy had become a major issue in the life of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's authorization for wiretapping. The record has now been set forth in a detailed accounting given by the Attorney General for the first time.

I place in the Record at this point from the Washington Evening Star of June 19, setting forth specific details on the authorization of the wiretapping.

The Star article states that the disclosures "climaxed a long smoldering controversy over the role of the FBI." The article should also serve to end the controversy and any further irresponsible reporting on the subject.

FBI Director Hoover has documented his account of the record and the record now speaks for itself.

The Star article follows:

KING WIRETAP CALLED R.F.K.'S IDEA - BY AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF FBI COUNCIL - NEW YORK Herald Tribune

(By Jeremiah O'Leary)

Wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s telephone was proposed to the FBI by then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in June, 1963, and authorized by him in writing later that year, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told The Star today.

Hoover revealed the contents of two memorandums in one of which Kennedy expressed concern about possible infiltration of the race issue by Marxists and spoke of allegations that the Negro leader was closely associated with Marxist groups and followers.

The Department today reported the contents of a conversation Evans had just had with Kennedy in which the Attorney General asked about the feasibility of installing electronic devices on King's telephone. Evans headed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

HOOPER ABOUT WIRETAPPING

Evans, according to the Evans memo, was concerned about reports that King was a student of Marxism, that he was associating with a New York attorney with known Communist connections, but that he did not openly espouse Marxism because of his religious beliefs. The Evans memorandum indicated Kennedy wanted to know if it was technically feasible to use electronic devices to prove or disprove these allegations.

The Evans memo said Evans replied to Kennedy that King was a man who traveled almost constantly and that it was extremely difficult to use wiretaps effectively in such cases.

Hoover told The Star that FBI officials also informed Kennedy at that time that they doubted the advisability of undertaking electronic surveillance of Dr. King because of possible political repercussions.

However, the second memorandum cited by Hoover shows that on October 7, 1963, the FBI chief reported to Kennedy that it was then technically feasible to apply wiretaps to King's telephones in two places, one of them at an unnamed location in New York.

That memorandum constituted the FBI's request for authority to proceed with the wiretap proposed by Kennedy four months before. The document bears in the lower left-hand corner the signature, "Robert F. Kennedy," and under the name the date "10-10-63."

Hoover did not indicate to The Star when the surveillance was started but said the taps were discontinued on April 30, 1965. At that time Nicholas Katzenbach was serving as Attorney General.

Asked about the results of the electronic surveillance today, Hoover declined comment.

The FBI director told The Star: "I have never authorized installation of technical electronic devices without written authority of the Attorney General."

Today's disclosures climaxed a long smoldering controversy over the role of the FBI, a subordinate bureau of the Justice Department, in using wiretaps or other electronic devices in investigative matters. The matter came to a head Sunday when Carl Rowan, a columnist for The Star, charged that the FBI had no authority to wiretap Dr. King's conversations. He quoted former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who succeeded Katzenbach, as saying "the implication that people thought Dr. King was a security threat is outrageous."

The Rowan charges prompted Associate FBI Director Clyde A. Tolson to write to Rowan early this week defending legality of the King wiretaps.

"For your information," Tolson said in his letter, "the wiretap on Martin Luther King, Jr., was specifically approved in advance in writing by the late attorney general of the United States, Mr. Robert F. Kennedy."

Tolson added that the monitoring device was "strictly in the field of internal security and therefore was within the provision laid down by the President of the United States."

Evans, now a Washington lawyer, was en route to Puerto Rico today and could not be reached for comment. However, Tuesday night Evans said he had no recollection of whether a wiretap authorization directed at King had ever been involved in his discussion with Kennedy.

Alders to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said today he would have no comment on

Robert Kennedy's role in the wiretapping controversy. Kennedy said he had no recollection of the authorization of the wiretap on John F. Kennedy, the attorney general's interest in some of his official affairs had flagged. However, the authorization came nearly six weeks after Robert Kennedy signed the authorization for the King wiretap.

Hoover and Kennedy's relationship was not each other's secret. Hoover said he had no recollection of the wiretap on King.

Evans' report came out when Kennedy made public a February 1966 letter to him from Evans which made the point that the use of hidden microphones was not Kennedy's responsibility but suggested he may have directly approved the use of wiretaps on phones. That letter said the FBI sent national security wiretap requests to Kennedy for approval.

It is reliably reported that Kennedy was reminded by the FBI that it still had in its files the authorizations signed by him as Attorney General for telephonic wiretaps. However, Hoover did not disclose at that time any names of persons under wiretap surveillance with Kennedy's approval.

At that stage, Kennedy and Hoover broke off the public exchange of charges as if by mutual consent. This was regarded partly as due to Kennedy's realization that his signed authorizations were still in FBI files, partly to the FBI's desire not to have special attention drawn to its investigative techniques nor to engage in a battle with the Kennedy forces that could have political overtones.

The Justice Department on Tuesday declined a direct answer when asked for documentation of Tolson's contention in his letter to Rowan. But earlier this month, a Justice Department spokesman said Hoover was "accurate in every respect" in his repeated statements that all wiretaps were being authorized in advance and in writing by the Attorney General during the timespan of the controversy.

A Justice department spokesman, asked today if Attorney General John N. Mitchell had given Hoover permission to discuss the contents of secret documents of the King wiretapping, replied simply, "no comment."

However, the spokesman recalled that the attorney general had declined to authorize disclosures in court of the basic authority for the wiretapping. Such disclosures had been demanded by defense lawyers in the Houston draft evasion hearing for former boxing champion Cassius Clay. It was during that hearing that the King wiretapping was officially revealed for the first time.

ENCLOSURE

100-106670 -

b7(c)

Mike Royko
Columnist
Detroit Free Press
Detroit, Michigan

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-4-91 BY SP-10/MLH

Subject: Your article appearing 6/19 re "EUGEN" - an analysis

Dear Mr. Royko:

Your article (copy enclosed) suggests your observation the motive for wiretapping Dr. King might be a) Mr. Hoover didn't like Dr. King (par F) and b.) Mr. Hoover resorted to using his agency to go into the scandal sheet business (par G).

Have you asked your lockerroom contact if the motive for wiretapping was "national security". Have you asked him the nature of the "national security"? Maybe you feel these questions are not important to your report of your lockerroom experience.

If the purpose of the wiretapping was national security and if national security should be kept secret (as you suggest par. F). And you had club house experience where the matter was discussed in some intimate details, and yet you did not find out what the motive was for the wiretapping (par A); then I would suggest your contact maintained his obligation of secrecy for the wiretapping.

As a matter of national policy do you think:

- a. Mr. Hoover should make public "national security" details of investigations?
- b. To whom should he make these motive known?
 - (1) you acknowledge your contact and other trusted ex-agents were "let in on such things" (par B).

You state (par C) "a famous man's imperfections don't shock me". This characteristic is admirable and one of a mark of perfection for yourself. Thus, you shouldn't be shocked at the imperfection of your lockerroom contact (par D) for his not being immune to being effected by revelations of famous men's imperfections.

I would suggest you contact your lockerroom contact to determine if the wiretapping had a "national security motive", then write another article on the subject so as it is complete.

cc:

NOT RECORDED (continued next page)

51 JUL 14 1959

JUN 17 1959

ORIGINAL FILED IN

pg. 2

It would be contrary to national policy for
article alleges (go into details of the
King), and it would just be to put
required to make public details of "national security"
because of imperfections of persons "let in on the secret."

I feel you are definitely on target with public interest in
publish possible use of our governmental agencies
to accomplish personal motives of public officials.

Your exercise of telling of your experiences as
the chips fall where they may is also consistent with
I, as a layman, see it.

I have made this analysis of your article for my own
pass it on to you for what it is worth.

Keep up your good work and best wishes to you for the future.

Sincerely,



cc: C. Tolson
Associate FBI Director

b7(c)

6/19/69

Reason Bugging' King

CHICAGO—The FBI has a lot more explaining to do about its motives for spying on the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

It was widely known that a "malicious" in column written by Carl Rowan that criticized the wiretapping of Dr. King's phones.

Clyde Tolson, FBI Director, says the wiretapping was done for "national security" reasons. But the removal of the late Robert Kennedy from a key general.

That doesn't come even close to telling it.

ON THING IT DOESN'T explain is the following incident:

About three years ago an ex-FBI agent I knew asked me to join him for a round of golf.

After the round, we sat in the clubhouse chatting. He worked the conversation around to Dr. King.

He told me that the FBI had been using a variety of electronic eavesdropping devices on Dr. King. Besides tapping his phone, they had planted listening devices in hotel rooms he used while traveling.

The result, he said, was a very thick file on Dr. King.

He gave me some examples.

They were very personal things. Naturally, if you bug almost anybody's bedroom long enough, you will hear personal things.

They were things that I'm sure Dr. King would not want anyone else to know about. If you bugged almost anyone's bedroom long enough, you would hear things that person didn't want anyone else to know about.

BUT NONE OF THE THINGS this ex-FBI agent told me about reflected in any way on Dr. King's "loyalty," his "Americanism," or seemed to be remotely related to "national security."

Nor did they reflect on his role as a leader in the civil rights crusade, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, or a figure of historic importance.

I asked the ex-FBI agent if his information was merely gossip or if he was sure about it.

He said that he had visited J. Edgar Hoover in Washington and had been briefed on the contents of the Dr. King file.

It was not uncommon, he said, for trusted agents to be let in on such things.

Obviously, I was supposed to be shocked by the things he told me. And I was. But not for the reasons he assumed. A famous man's imperfections don't shock me.

The shocking disclosure was that he was actually sitting there telling me such things.

They were none of my business, and they were none of his business. They were nobody's business but Dr. King's.

It was plain old mud slinging, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-peeking public actions.

THERE WAS NO DOUBT in my mind then, and none now, that it was being leaked to me for the purpose of discrediting Dr. King.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

And it doesn't take much imagination to figure out why. Dr. King and Hoover had engaged in a furious public quarrel. Hoover, quite clearly, did not like Dr. King.

That's why I suggest that the FBI hasn't given an adequate explanation.

If the wiretapping was being done for "national security," I presume that it should have been kept a big secret.

Secret? How much of a secret was it if a newspaper columnist in Chicago knew of the eavesdropping? Or if a former agent—a private citizen—could talk about it?

(For the record, the ex-agent was not a two-bit gumshoe given to flights of fancy. He was then a well-known and highly-respected investigator. He is today a famous and powerful man.)

AND IS THE PURPOSE of such official eavesdropping to gather spite-material, transom-peeking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was then I'll gladly second Rowan's wish Hoover be replaced.

The scandal sheet business—private industry.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 LHM/IL

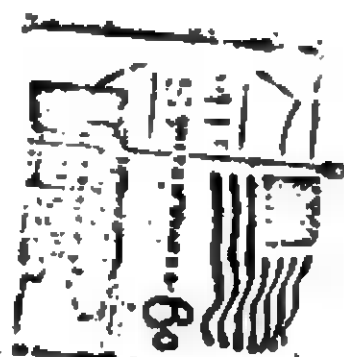
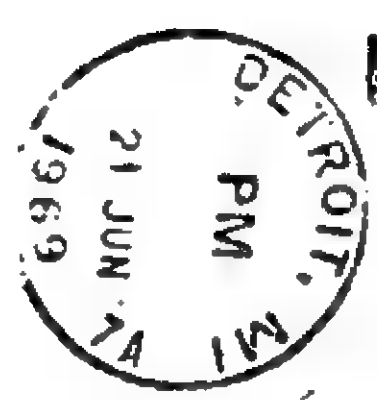
ENCLOSURE

100-106070-

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

b7(c)

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1969
7609



Mr. Clyde Tolson
Associate FBI Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Airmail

5-1444

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. DeLoach | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Bishop | _____ |
| Mr. Casper | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
| Mr. Conrad | _____ |
| Mr. Felt | _____ |
| Mr. Gale | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Miss Holmes | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
INFORMATION CONCERNING

67(c)
A newspaper column critical of the connection with our investigation of Martin Luther King has been sent to the Director by one [REDACTED]. Accompanying the newspaper column is a note from [REDACTED] which states, "I expect to see your response to this column, and have asked my senators to insist on it." [REDACTED] letter. [REDACTED] s, and the postmark on the envelope is not legible.

The newspaper column which was sent to the Director by [REDACTED] bears the by-line of Mike Royko; however, neither the name of the newspaper nor the date on which the column was published is indicated. In the column, Royko claims that about four years ago a former FBI Agent told him that during a trip to Washington he (the former Agent) had been briefed by the Director regarding "the contents of the (Martin Luther) King file." Royko then implies that the information which the Director disclosed to the former Agent about King "was plain old mud-slinging, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-peeking publications." Royko concludes, "If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'll gladly second (Carl) Rowan's suggestion that Hoover be replaced." Royko does not name the former FBI Agent to whom he refers.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES

100-106620
Bufiles reflect that Mike Royko is a columnist for the "Chicago Daily News." On December 24, 1964, he wrote what apparently was intended to be a humorous satire on an open house held in the press room of the new Federal Building in Chicago which stated, in part, "Reporters, judges, FBI men, government prosecutors, private attorneys and assorted federal officials were standing around drinking, bragging and fibbing to each other." SAC M. W. Johnson immediately contacted the Executive Editor of the "Chicago Daily News" and protested that this was a complete fabrication and unscrupulous reporting. In subsequent editions of the December 24, 1964, issue of the newspaper, all reference to the FBI was deleted from Royko's column. At the time of this incident, SAC Johnson observed that Royko "is the type of writer who never has a good word to say about anybody or anything."

165 JUN 30 1969
CONTINUED - OVER

NOT RECORDED
PERS. REC. UNIT - CRIME RESEARCH

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-106620

M. A. Jones to Bishop

RE: [REDACTED]

b7(c)

[REDACTED] obvious [REDACTED] of Palatine, Illinois, who wrote the Hon. Atty. Gen. R. F. Kennedy in 1961. [REDACTED] called Kennedy's reaction to a vicious anti-FBI column written by John Crosby in October, 1961. In his letter, he implied that the FBI was engaged in compiling "black lists" on almost everyone in the United States, an activity repugnant to anyone with those of a police state mentality" and inquired, "...what has the agency stored that is of value to the ordinary citizen. ... Is the country any better for J. Edgar Hoover's activities?"

RECOMMENDATION

For information. It is felt that either [REDACTED] or Royko deserves the dignity of a reply.

10/10
V
DC
10/10
R.B. [REDACTED]

SECRET

um

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY... *SP4 JO*
REASON FOR EXTENSION *2*
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION... *6-17-89*
6071

DATE: 6-17-69

OF ARTICLE ENTITLED
"FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER TO GO,"
APPEARING IN THE 6-15-69 ISSUE OF
"THE SUNDAY STAR," WASHINGTON, D. C.

SYNOPSIS:

Captioned individual in his article criticizes the FBI concern
our use of electronic surveillance devices and urges that Mr. Hoover be
replaced immediately as Director of FBI. Bufiles reveal Rowan born 8-11
at Ravenscroft, Tennessee. He received A.B. degree, Oberlin College (1944)
and M.A. degree in journalism from University of Minnesota (1948). He has
been a syndicated columnist with "Chicago Daily News" since 1965. We
investigated Rowan, who had been Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for
Public Affairs since 1961, for State Department in 1962 and investigation
was generally favorable.

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b(1)

Rowan served as Ambassador to Finland (1963-64) and was
Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA), 1964-65.

In April, 1967, a request from Rowan to briefly meet the
Director and discuss anti-Vietnam protests and Martin Luther King was
declined. In June, 1967, Rowan contacted Assistant Director Sullivan and
voiced desire to help administration prevent Negro riots from occurring.
Rowan stated he knew of good work FBI was doing in this field and offered

Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FOIA(b)(7)(C)

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

Classified by *6089 Lef*
Date of Declassification Indefinite *12/24/77*

Memorandum to Bishop Memo
RE: CARL T. ROWAN

to be of assistance to us. He also expressed belief that Martin Luther King, whom he described as a man with a "strong complex" and a dangerous man, had become a liability not only to the civil rights movement but to national defense and the country itself. He also spoke of King's willingness to move in the direction of the Left and stated King was no kind of a leader for the Negro people to have.

Rowan has in the past been critical of the Bureau in his writings. In an article appearing last April in the "Evening Star," Rowan discussed the departure of Henry Loomis from Voice of America (VOA) while Rowan headed the USIA. Rowan stated that just prior to this departure he had criticized Loomis as being "inexcusably irresponsible or was manifesting a futile notion that he could run VOA independent of its parent body the way J. Edgar Hoover supposedly ran the FBI aloof from policies of the Justice Department." Over the Director's signature, a letter was written on 4-4-69 to the "Evening Star" calling Rowan's "gratuitous slur" on the Director's administration of the FBI "completely irresponsible and untrue."

Rowan is not carried on any of our mailing lists.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

✓ *Chase* *TSB* *D. J. 2*

Bar

Capt. [redacted] in his article criticizes the FBI
concerning use of electronic surveillance devices and urges that
Mr. [redacted] be replaced immediately as Director of the FBI. Our
files [redacted] reviewed on Rowan and they reveal the following
information concerning him.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Carl Thomas Rowan, a Negro, was born on 8-11-25 at
Ravenscroft, Tennessee. He attended Tennessee State University
(1942-43), Washburn University (1943-44), and received an A.B. degree
in mathematics from Oberlin College in 1947. In 1948 he received an
M.A. degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. He has
been a columnist with the "Chicago Daily News" since 1965, and his
syndicated column is carried by the "Evening Star."

[redacted]

b7(c)

[redacted]

b7(c)

[redacted]

b(1)



to Bishop
T. ROWAN

[REDACTED] b(1)

Rowan served as Ambassador to Finland from 1963 to 1964
was Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA) from 1964
1965.

[REDACTED] b(1)(D)

In April, 1967, Rowan requested the opportunity to visit the Director for a brief chat. He stated that he would like to discuss some aspects of the anti-Vietnam protests and said he wanted to ask Mr. Hoover about Martin Luther King. He indicated at that time that when he was in Government service he had become aware of King's unfavorable side. It was recommended and approved that Rowan's request for a meeting be declined and this was done.

In June of 1967, Rowan contacted Assistant Director Sullivan at which time he indicated that he would like to do everything possible to help the administration in its efforts to prevent Negro riots from occurring. At this time, Rowan advised that he knew of the good work that the FBI had been doing in this field and offered to be of any assistance in this regard. He also stated that he thought Martin Luther King had become a grave liability not only to the civil rights movement but to national defense and the country itself. He described King as a person with a Messiah complex and called him a dangerous man. He further spoke of King's willingness to move in the direction of the Left and stated that King was no kind of a leader for the Negro people to have.

DETAILS - CONTINUED OVER

↓ ↓

J

CARL T. ROWAN

As a result, the ability to live in peace and the threat to personal liberty. This society is a lot of people who may judge from the public opinion — or lack of it — to be a collection of admissions of a variety of illegal FBI wiretaps and buggings of homes and offices.

A Justice Department official said that in the Southern District Court in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s case, where electronic surveillance was used in 1964 and 1965, the FBI did not tell who surveilled him, or how, or when the bugs were put in, or under what authority that it went on after that.

The whole truth is that Dr. King's phones were tapped, his home rooms bugged, and he was personally followed right up to his death. He was slain in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

William Bradford Huie, a former U.S. attorney in Houston, Texas, said that for four solid years he had listened eight hours a day, five days a week, to the conversations of Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims. Pickett employed both a telephone wiretap and a microphone planted in Muhammad's home.

These cases of electronic eavesdropping, which violate both federal law and a presidential executive order, were disclosed in a recent book by

former New York Times book reviewer, Charles Clay's effort to overturn a five-year prison sentence for his refusal to be drafted.

The book, "The Wiretaps," which contains some Clay conversations with the "New York Times," are but a fraction of the wall-to-wall wiretaps that have invaded the country since the dawn of a nation state that the Americans realize.

The book, "The Wiretaps," is a different kind of book, the part of most

people who are in the general public, the one for which the

Justice Department General Counsel, Charles H. Hays, has emphasized that the FBI had no authority to wiretap or bug anyone without a court order. The implication is that people thought the FBI was a security threat

"moral" fear, and men still more things — including a ty — out of fear that they were out of love.

The puzzling thing about Clark's statement is that he acts as though he is surprised to hear of the wiretapping and bugging of Dr. King. Clark possibly has been told that FBI officials have gone before congressional committees and publicly deny the larger approach.

Behind some of the and feeding anti-semitism to Southerners who despised the civil rights leader — all by way of revealing the "bits" picked up through the wiretaps and buggings.

Was Clark unaware that a large FBI official was running the country's leading newspaper editor's stories about Dr. King and what the buggings allegedly had revealed?

Everybody else in Washington of any consequence knew it, and many deplored it, but no one seemed to know how to go about making the FBI bend to the laws of the land.

There is a not-too-flippant assumption in Washington that J. Edgar Hoover has been FBI director for 45 years because all the recent Presidents have assumed that he knew too much about them to be replaced. So not only was he not replaced by any of the younger, very able FBI men in the normal course of things, but Presidents Johnson and Nixon have felt it wise or expedient to waive a law saying Hoover has reached the rocking-chair age.

Hoover ought to be replaced as FBI director — immediately.

As Washington agency heads go, Hoover may have done a better job than most. But the people of this country have

something when they realize the time one man might serve in a presidency. They saw perils of the democracy, the personal freedom, that we have come to

to the man more things — including a ty — out of fear that they were out of love. The puzzling thing about Clark's statement is that he acts as though he is surprised to hear of the wiretapping and bugging of Dr. King. Clark possibly has been told that FBI officials have gone before congressional committees and publicly deny the larger approach.

Behind some of the and feeding anti-semitism to Southerners who despised the civil rights leader — all by way of revealing the "bits" picked up through the wiretaps and buggings. Was Clark unaware that a large FBI official was running the country's leading newspaper editor's stories about Dr. King and what the buggings allegedly had revealed?

Everybody else in Washington of any consequence knew it, and many deplored it, but no one seemed to know how to go about making the FBI bend to the laws of the land.

There is a not-too-flippant assumption in Washington that J. Edgar Hoover has been FBI director for 45 years because all the recent Presidents have assumed that he knew too much about them to be replaced. So not only was he not replaced by any of the younger, very able FBI men in the normal course of things, but Presidents Johnson and Nixon have felt it wise or expedient to waive a law saying Hoover has reached the rocking-chair age. Hoover ought to be replaced as FBI director — immediately. As Washington agency heads go, Hoover may have done a better job than most. But the people of this country have something when they realize the time one man might serve in a presidency. They saw perils of the democracy, the personal freedom, that we have come to

to the man more things — including a ty — out of fear that they were out of love. The puzzling thing about Clark's statement is that he acts as though he is surprised to hear of the wiretapping and bugging of Dr. King. Clark possibly has been told that FBI officials have gone before congressional committees and publicly deny the larger approach.

Co. per _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

It is clear Hoover has no intention of resigning. He does the President master the courage to say: "Well don't thou good and faithful servant. Goodbye?"

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4JML/ML
6071

The Washington Post
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) E-4
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

Date JUN 15 1968

100-106670

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY *SP4 JRM/ld*
REASON FOR EXTENSION *2*
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION *6-19-82*
6076

11:06 AM

June 19, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. DE LOACH
MR. SULLIVAN
MR. BISHOP

Mr. Newbold Noyes, Editor of The Evening Star called. He said he thanked me very much for talking to him because he knew this was an unusual kind of thing to have happen. *M.A.L*

He said he wanted to ask me very seriously, but he was sure I was familiar with this and given thought to it already, but he wanted to report on the basis of their story that was run yesterday about the authorization that the FBI had from Mr. Robert Kennedy, to release the King material; that they are getting a great deal of static from people who are telling them -- they say they have this authorization, but they don't release it and don't show what the documents are and many of these documents that have been released in the past are fuzzy and don't really show there was clear authorization to do this and in general there is a nondisposition on the part of the readers to accept the idea that Bob Kennedy actually did authorize the tapping of King's phone. He said, "Now I just want to ask you as seriously as I can to release those documents. You have them. They do show, I presume, exactly what you say."

Martin Luther King

I told Mr. Noyes that he authorized it in his own handwriting on October 10, 1963; it was installed November 8, 1963, and discontinued April 30, 1965. I told Mr. Noyes that, as a matter of fact, when Kennedy was Attorney General he requested that the telephones of Dr. King be covered by electronic device and was persuaded by our people not to do it in view of the possible repercussions, then later he changed his mind and delayed bringing the matter up again until in October the authority was signed by him in his own handwriting and it gave us the authority to do it and we discontinued it on April 30, 1965, under the administration of Attorney General Katzenbach. Mr. Noyes said he understood and asked if they could report this. I told him he could report what I have said to him. I told him the reason I was drawing a

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

JLH:edm (8)

Classified by *6080 Laltrop*
Exempt from GDS, Category _____
Date of Declassification Indefinite

100 - 106670 -

NOT RECORDED 1969
170 AUG 5 1969

79 AUG 12 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

94-5-21-868
ORIGINAL FILED IN

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1969

One on this is that Mr. Tolson wrote (Carl) Rowan about his slanderous column last Sunday and he, Rowan, wrote back in which he asked a series of eight or nine questions, such as, did we tap the telephone of a half dozen leaders like Wilkins of the NAACP, Farmer, eight or nine others, Abernathy; or if we had tapped the phones of a Congressman; and various other things. Mr. Noyes said he was not asking all that. I told him he could certainly print what I say because we are writing back to Rowan today that since he did not seek any facts before printing his column, he was not entitled to any information from us at this time, but as to the question he has asked, the dates that these wiretaps were on, I have the original copy of it on my desk. It was signed by Kennedy in his own handwriting on October 10, 1963.

Mr. Noyes said if I had one minute, could he repeat back to me what he understood I had said to him so there would be no misunderstanding and also could he tell me that he was adding into it some details that he thought they already understood about this from other sources they have talked to.

He said it was his understanding that in June, 1963, Mr. Kennedy did suggest through a liaison man that he had with me, that I should keep an eye on Martin Luther King because of his association with people that he, Robert Kennedy, was concerned about and he, Noyes, was particularly talking about Stanley Levinson and a fellow named Jones, both of whom were supposed to be of Marxist leanings and that the Attorney General was concerned about King's relations with these people and he thought it might be a good idea to put an electronic surveillance device of some type into the picture to see what he was doing; that the FBI suggested at that time that this would be a difficult thing to do because of the fact that King traveled around so much and there were a lot of political repercussions that might result; but then subsequently on the 26th of November (and I corrected him and told him October 7, 1963) -- on October 7, 1963, I reported, and this is a memorandum from me to the Attorney General, a four-paragraph document, that I had determined the feasibility of establishing taps on the telephones of the SCLC headquarters at Atlanta and New York and if he authorized it, I was prepared to go ahead and do it and that came back to me, the memorandum, with his initials, I told him with his full name, Robert F. Kennedy. Mr. Noyes continued - o.k.'d by him, dating that 10/10/63. I told Mr. Noyes that was correct.

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1969

Mr. Noyes continued that it was his understanding that I had no objection to his using this -- is it o.k. for them to identify the FBI as the source or flatly say it on their own. I told him I would rather he flatly said it on his own, but I anticipate similar requests from other sources that I would not be as frank with as I have been with him. Mr. Noyes said o.k.; that he thought this is a wise thing for me to do.

He said if I had one more minute, he would like to tell me one reason why he happened to be interested in this thing. He said he had some young people with whom he was friendly who were involved in a wedding this weekend and the boys and girls all ended up at his house after the thing and he did not know whether they had read Rowan's column, but they were talking about the fact how dreadful it was that the FBI would have presumed to tap the phone or keep an eye on Martin Luther King, a great hero. He said after listening to this for about an hour and a half, he told them to hold on a minute, that it was his understanding that the Bureau had been checking on King because there had been allegations that he had been in touch with recognized or potential communist agents and the reason nothing was ever released or done about it was that after checking into it, they became satisfied there was nothing dangerous and he asked them what they would think of a Government that did not check into information that seemed to show that communist agents were trying to work on a man in Martin Luther King's position. He said these kids listened and were astounded that there might be another side to it, and he was telling me that this was taken by Bobby Kennedy from the point of view of the generation gap. Mr. Noyes said he thought this is an important story. I said he became a kind of Messiah for the generation gap and individuals who were pro-King and still are.

I told Mr. Noyes that as to the matter of electronic installations, I have never authorized an electronic installation of any kind at any time except with written approval of the then Attorney General and that goes right down to today. I said I do not have authority to do it myself and I do not want it as I feel the Attorney General should be the one to approve or not approve electronic surveillances and we use it only in internal security cases and now in organized crime. I said in organized crime, the authority has to be obtained from the courts under the McClellan bill and in security cases -- espionage, communist activities -- that is approved by the Attorney General, which is

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1969

allowed under the McClellan Bill. I continued that the Rowan article indicated we were promiscuously continuing this sort of thing without regard to restrictions or regard to authority, so the truth of the matter is, I have never ever authorized the installation of a technical electronic device except with the approval of the Attorney General in writing and we have on file the original documents that support that statement.

Mr. Noyes said that when he first asked me, I said it was all right to cite the Bureau for the authority and then I indicated I would rather have it come from them directly. He said if, in order to give this the authority it should have, it is necessary for him to cite me for the authority for some of this, is that o.k. with me. I told him that normally I would say no; that I would defer to his judgement because he knows more about the matter of public relations and public reaction. I told him I have been astounded at the reaction on this thing. I said some of these magazines, like Newsweek, which is owned by the Washington Post, carried the Cassius Clay testimony in Texas where he is on trial and where the use of the electronic device was exposed, and they stated the Agent testified the taps were continued until King's death. I said that is untrue and the Agent did not so testify. I said in the King case, it was discontinued April 30, 1965. I told Mr. Noyes that if he thought it would be to the best interest of public relations in clearing up any really serious doubts newspaper people have, I would have no objection to being quoted.

Mr. Noyes said he thanked me and he thought I was making a wise decision in letting it come out. He said he thought it may be one of the most important stories of the year.

I told Mr. Noyes that when I read the Sunday paper and Rowan's article I thought here is an individual who is a Messiah of the dissident left, of which Rowan is a part, and yet it was done at the instance of Bobby Kennedy, who later became a great friend of King's, notwithstanding he knew all the facts, as I kept him advised as well as every Attorney General since.

Mr. Noyes said there is one thing about this I should consider and that is that he has the gist of what is in these things from me, but I will be

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1969

asked immediately to release them textually. He said he thought I ought to do it. I told him I would have to get the authority of the Attorney General for that. Mr. Noyes said that is another problem, but the text ought to come out. He said it is very well for me to say what is in them, but the text ought to come out. I told him I realized that. He said he thought once before we had put out photostats.

I told him a Congressman, Gross, made inquiry in regard to some of Kennedy's authorizations before he died and after he left the Attorney Generalship. I said he denied he had approved certain authorizations and I sent to the Congressman Xerox copies of the authorization signed by Kennedy, as he being a Congressman, I felt he was entitled to it, and then Attorney General approved. I said in this instance, if we get a request from a Congressman or Senator along the lines he indicated, I would submit it to the Attorney General with my recommendation. Mr. Noyes said I was going to get an immediate request -- within the next couple of hours or as soon as he can get this out -- from every news media for the text. I told him these were confidential documents of the Department and can only be released as to the text by the Attorney General.

Mr. Noyes thanked me.

1:08 PM

[REDACTED]

b(1) Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 3, 1969

REC-38

100-106670-3637

pl.

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

New York 11596

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of June

27th. The interest which prompted you to write and bring the excerpts from "The New York Times" to my attention is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

b7(c)

NOTE: Bufiles contain previous outgoing to [REDACTED] 3-13-68 in response to his inquiry on the topic of communism.
CEE:cs (3)

8

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP-1 [REDACTED]
6074

MAILED 22
JUL 3 - 1969
COMM-FBI

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

60

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

✓
TEB

W

Y

H

W

N. Y. 11596

b7(c)

7, 1969

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMM
b276

J. Edgar Hoover
United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have been reading of your problems concerning the wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King's telephone. Your opponents are, in effect, accusing you of having perpetrated a great injustice on Dr. Martin Luther King, who was supposedly a great American and a great believer in democracy.

I would suggest that you call to the attention of your opponents and newsmen the following excerpts that appeared in the New York Times prior to Dr. King's death. Tell them to let the record speak for itself.

From the New York Times:

"Dr. King again urged young men to file as conscientious objectors and refuse to fight for the United States which he described as the 'greatest purveyor of violence in the world today'....."

Dr. King said: "The United States is on the wrong side of the revolutionary movement of oppressed people throughout the world."

REC-38

100-106670-3637

The civil rights leader asserted that the United States policy on Vietnam had been wrong since 1946. He said that this country had supported the French in Indo-China rather than the independence leader, Ho Chi Minh. He said "when France lost its war, the United States selected one dictator after another to prevent Ho Chi Minh from becoming the head of Vietnam". "Elections would surely have brought to power Ho Chi Minh over a united Vietnam", he said.

In another article in the New York Times, we read the following:
In his (Dr. King's) address, which was sponsored by the 'Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, Dr. King likened the use of heavy American weapons on the peasants of Vietnam to the Germans' tactics.

ACK 7/3/69 REF 12

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover - page 2.

of "medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps
of Europe"

His record speaks for itself.

Very truly yours,

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-11-81 BY 3102

REC-54 100-100000-36

C

mail

[REDACTED]

Freeport, Texas 77541

b7(c)

Dear [REDACTED]

CD. [Signature]
R. [Signature]

Mr. Hoover has received your letter of June 24th and asked me to advise you that the article from the June 19, 1969, issue of "The Evening Star" which was previously furnished to you speaks for itself. He has no further comment to make regarding this matter.

MAILED 10
JUL 2 - 1969
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Heleen W. Gandy
Secretary

✓
b7(c) *T*

NOTE: Bufiles disclose in April, 1968, [REDACTED] of Texas appeared on a list of individuals expressing opposition to the Vietnam war. He wrote on June 16, 1969, regarding the Martin Luther King wiretap controversy and by letter 6/20/69 we sent him the 6/19/69 issue of "The Evening Star" and advised him that it set forth our position in that matter. He apparently did not read the article carefully as he wonders where we got the authority between September, 1964, and April, 1968, and the article clearly states the wiretaps were discontinued on April 30, 1965. He apparently desires to get into a hassle regarding this and it is felt the above response is appropriate.

Ref
Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

[Signatures]

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP-8 BJS/MLH

[Redacted] b7(c)
El Paso, Texas 77541
June 24, 1969 Hs.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your letter of June 20th explaining the FBI's position concerning the wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King's telephone.

I still would appreciate a clarification on the following: Robert Kennedy resigned as Attorney General in September, 1964, but an FBI agent recently testified in federal court that the wiretap continued until King's death in 1968. If neither Nicholas Katzenbach nor Ramsey Clark gave permission for such a wiretap, where did the FBI get such authority between September, 1964 and April, 1968? Is it common practice for the FBI to carry on such activities without the knowledge of the Attorney General?

As a citizen of this country and as one who is concerned about the increasing invasion of privacy, I feel that you owe us further explanation.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

b7(c)

REC-54

JUN 27 1969

REC-54

100 1066-0-3636

4 JUL 8 1969

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Casper
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Felt
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Tavel
- 1 - Mr. Trotter
- 1 - Mr. Tele. Room
- 1 - Mr. Holmes
- 1 - Mr. Gandy

July 3, 1969

REC 45

3635

Honorable Robert L. Leggett
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

Your letter of July 1, 1969, has been received.

While I certainly appreciate your interest, other than the enclosed newspaper article, it is not possible for me to furnish you any information since data in our files is confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret that I cannot be of assistance in this instance.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 24
JUL 3 - 1969
COMM-FBI

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP1 JMD/mh
637

NOTE: See memorandum G. C. Moore to W. C. Sullivan 7/2/69 regarding "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist" prepared by JJD:fsk.

Newspaper article being sent to Leggett is the one which appeared in the Evening Star 6/19/69 entitled "King Wiretap Called RFK's Idea"

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

JJD:ekw
(8)

JUL 23 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
LEGISLATIVE

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

WASHINGTON OFFICE
ROOM 223
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202/225-5716

OWEN CHAFFEE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Tele. Room
Mr. Holmes
Miss Gandy

July 1, 1969

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am becoming increasingly concerned over recent reports relating to the late Martin Luther King, Jr.'s alleged affiliation with known Communists and Communist-front organizations. The current controversy has unfortunately obfuscated the historical record concerning Dr. King's activities in the Civil Rights Movement.

In an effort to separate fact from fiction, I would very much appreciate a comprehensive briefing concerning this matter at your earliest possible convenience.

Yours very truly,

Robert L. Leggett
ROBERT L. LEGGETT
Member of Congress

RLL:am

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4JAN/6076

REC 45

100 106670-3635, 1-
8
10 JUL 2 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

EXP. PROC.
32 JUL 2 1969

100-106670-3634
CHANGED TO
67-149000-3386

JUL 18 1969

Sam.

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N. Y. 10027

433 West 117th Street

Page 2

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Thank you for your letter of June 18. I am disturbed by comments that my letter to the New York Times contained "unwarranted attacks" of the F.B.I. and "unfounded charges." My use of the question mark in the central part of that letter was meant to be honest, not evasive. At the time, I did not have enough facts to know who was responsible for the wiretapping or whether, putting aside the legal implications of the Federal Communications Act, there were sufficient reasons to justify it. As to the former question, subsequent statements have clarified the matter a good deal (though to my knowledge, it has still not been explicitly stated that all tapping did stop when the authorization expired). In regard to the latter question, it may be that it is impossible to put before the public enough information about the reasons for the tapping for interested private citizens to make a judgment on its advisability, but so far as I am aware no statements have been made since my letter that would quiet my doubts on that score.

I am somewhat reassured that the tapping was done pursuant to a good faith view of the needs of internal security and appreciate your having made that clear. Perhaps the basic question is how broadly that view should be interpreted when something as serious as continued wiretapping absent judicial approval is involved.

Sincerely yours,

Kent Greenawalt
Kent Greenawalt

REC-71

5 JUL 7 1969

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/ld
6076

WC/ark

JUL 3 1969

ERS. REC. UNIT

AP. P.F.O.C.

100-324117

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

Memorandum

Mr. Bishop *TJB*

M. *TJB*

SUBJECT: KENT GREENAWALT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF LAW
CRITICISM OF MR. HOOVER AND
WIRETAPPING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

Reference my memorandum to you of 6/11/69 captioned as above, in which it was approved by the Director and a critical letter to the Editor of "The New York Times" by Greenawalt which appeared in the 6/14/69 issue of that newspaper. Accordingly, by letter of 6/18/69, the Director transmitted to Greenawalt a copy of Mr. Tolson's letter to Carl T. Rowan regarding Rowan's unfounded charges concerning wire-tapping.

By letter of 6/23/69, Mr. Greenawalt acknowledged the Director's letter and indicated that at the time he wrote his original letter, he "did not have enough facts to know who was responsible for the wiretapping or whether...there were sufficient reasons to justify it." He then indicates that the former question has been "clarified" a good deal, and, though he still has some doubts concerning the latter question, he can see that it may not be possible to disclose enough information at this time for it to be completely explained to the public. Greenawalt finally states: "I am somewhat reassured that the tapping was done pursuant to a good faith view of the needs of internal security and appreciate your having made that clear."

OBSERVATION:

In view of the generally conciliatory tone of Greenawalt's letter, it would seem advisable to let this matter now rest since there would be little purpose in further pursuing the discussion with Greenawalt.

RECOMMENDATION:

That no further correspondence be undertaken with Mr. Greenawalt on this matter, and, accordingly, his letter not be answered.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

66 JUL 24 1969
TJB

PERS. REC. UNIT

July 1, 1963

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4/MLA
ON 2-14-81

Dear Mr. President:

For your information there is attached a copy of a Memorandum for the Attorney General dated October 10, 1963, requesting that authority be granted to place technical surveillance (wire tap) on Martin Luther King at his current address, or at any future address to which he may move. This was approved by the Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy on October 10, 1963.

There is also attached a copy of a memorandum dated July 16, 1963, from Mr. Courtney A. Evans, then Assistant Director of this Bureau, to Mr. Belmont, former Assistant to the Director, indicating a discussion concerning the wire tap at which time Mr. Kennedy stated any repercussions which should become known as a result of such a surveillance did not concern him at all, that in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation he thought it was advisable to have as complete coverage as possible. On July 22, 1963, Mr. Kennedy returned a request for a wire tap at which time he informed former Assistant Director Evans orally that he was withdrawing his previous request because of the reasons Mr. Evans had outlined to him previously.

As stated above, Mr. Kennedy later approved the placing of the wire tap on October 10, 1963.

Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Gandy

ENCLOSURE

JUL 8 1963

JUL 7 1963

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Also attached is a letter from the Bureau dated September 20, 1963, written by Robert Marshall, then Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division, to me as Director of the Bureau, relating that both the Attorney General and the President had separately strongly urged Dr. King that there should be no further connection between Hunter Pitts O'Dell and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. This also indicates that King was informed that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party and that this was done at the direction of the Attorney General and the President. The Attorney General at that time was the late Robert F. Kennedy and the President was the late John F. Kennedy.

Sincerely yours,

*Signed
Edgar*

Enclosures

CT:LCB

TO : Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: September 20, 1964

FROM : Burke Marshall, Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Hunter Pitts O'Dell

This relates to your letterhead memorandum of September 5 to the Attorney General, relating to Hunter Pitts O'Dell and the related prior memoranda. I appreciate your having sent copies of these to me.

This matter had been brought to the attention of Dr. King some time ago by me, but in accordance with conversations which the Attorney General had with Courtney Evans, it was not felt to be wise in view of the sources of the Bureau's information to state that I knew O'Dell to be under Communist influence or control at any time. I did inform Dr. King and two members of his organization -- Reverend Andrew Young and Reverend Wyatt Walker -- some time ago -- that since O'Dell was believed by many people to have had Communist connections, his association with their organization was not in the best interests of the organization.

At that time, inconclusive steps were taken to remove O'Dell, and his job with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was changed. In response to direct questions whether I had hard evidence of O'Dell's Communist connections, however, I replied that I was not in a position to give any.

Following further conversations with Mr. Evans in June, however, I brought the matter to the attention of Dr. King very explicitly in my office on the morning of June 22 prior to a scheduled meeting which Dr. King had with the President. This was done at the direction of the Attorney General. Later that morning both the Attorney General and the President separately strongly urged Dr. King that there should be no further connection between O'Dell and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4JAM

6876

100-106670-3631

ENCLOSURE

...stated that the information would be
...of the Attorney General and
...of the Attorney General and

...same occasion...
...information... Levison
...member of the Communist...
...done after conversation with Mr. Evans
...meeting with Dr. King, was done at
...of the Attorney General and the
...Prior to that time, again based upon
...the Attorney General and Mr. Evans at
...present, it had been decided that it
...the best interest of the United States to
...King that we had any firm information
...was under Communist control. I had,
...on a previous occasion, warned Dr. King
...association with Levison, basing the
...upon doubts about Levison's loyalty to the
...United States.

I thought you should have this additional
information for your file.

cc: The Attorney General
The Deputy Attorney General

7/16/63

FROM

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JMD
ON 2-14-81

6074

SUBJECT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE
RACIAL MATTERS

The AG was contacted at his request late this afternoon at Clarence Benjamin Jones, a NY attorney who had close association with Martin Luther King and with Stanley Levinson (a contact of the AG), had been in to see Burke Marshall about the racial situation. According to the AG, Jones had indicated he had some reservations about talking with Levinson on the phone. Marshall thought he might have been referring to a possible telephone tap, and passed it off by telling Jones this was something he would have to take up with Levinson. (LEVINSON)

The purpose of the AG's contact was that this brought to his attention the possibility of effecting technical coverage on both Jones and Martin Luther King. I told the AG that I was not at all acquainted with Jones, but that, in so far as King was concerned, it was obvious from the reports that he was in a travel status practically all the time, and it was, therefore, doubtful that a technical surveillance on his office or home would be very productive. I also raised the question as to the repercussions if it should ever become known that such a surveillance had been put on King.

The AG said this did not concern him at all; that in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation, he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible. I told him, under the circumstances, that we would check into the matter to see if coverage was feasible and, if so, would submit an appropriate recommendation to him.

If you approve, we will have a preliminary survey of the situation and coverage is feasible with full

Classified by 2050

Exempt from GDS

Date of Declassification

ENCLOSURE

SECRET

100 106670-3631

STATE

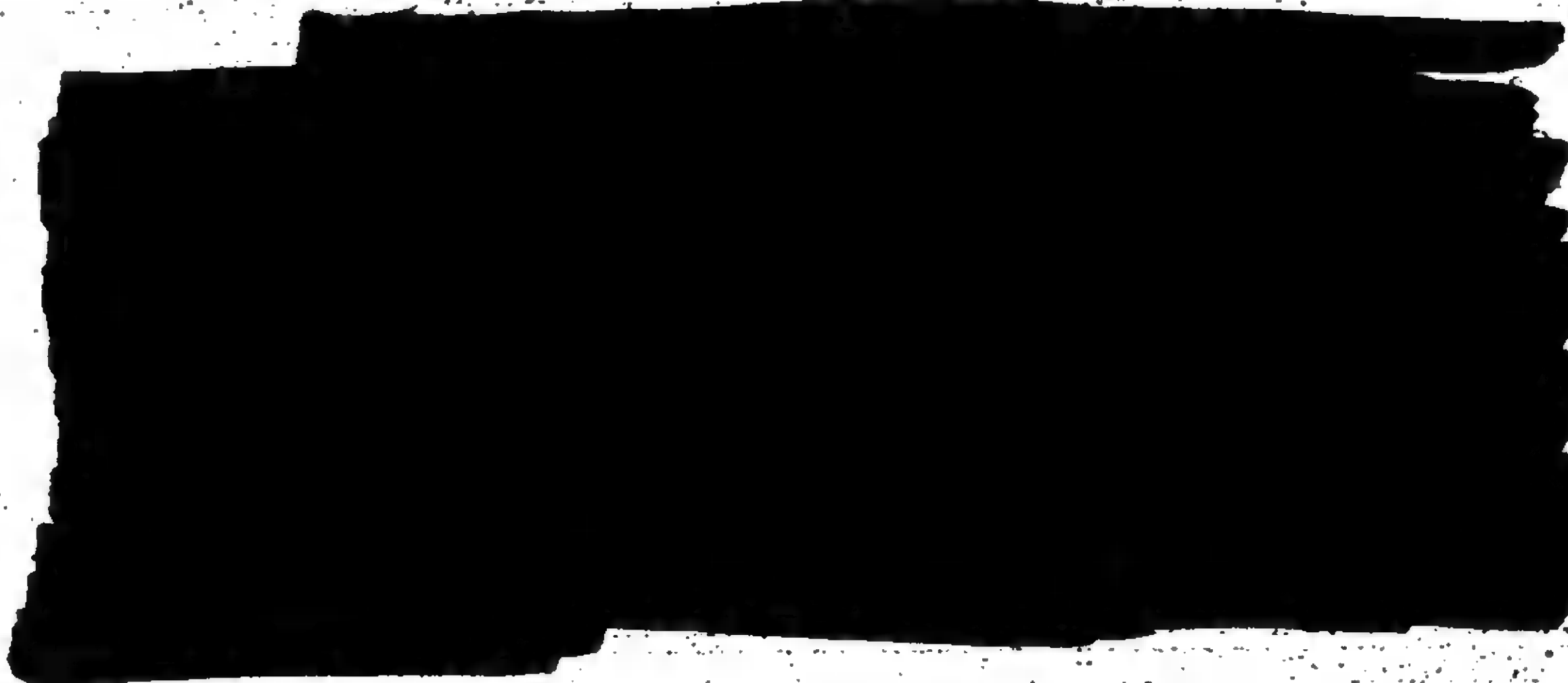
FEDERAL BUREAU OF

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN
RACIAL MATTERS



b(1)

It is further requested that authority be granted to place a technical surveillance on the SCLC office at the current New York address or to any other address to which it may be moved.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ENCLOSURE

APPROVED

DATE

10/10/6

Classified by

Exempt from GDS, Category

Date of Declassification Indefinite

5 NOV 17 1963

JUL 8 1969

July 3, 1969

100-106670-

Honorable James L. Bracken
Managing Editor
The Spokesman-Review
Spokane, Washington 99210

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-87 BY SP4 JIM

Dear Mr. Bracken:

Mr. James E. Milnes, Special Agent in
Charge of our Seattle Office, has furnished me the edito-
rial, "Hoover Is Upheld in Wiretap Dispute," from the
June 26th edition of your paper. I want to express my
thanks for your kind remarks and hope that my future
efforts as Director of the FBI will continue to merit your
approbation. Your staunch support is indeed appreciated
and it means a great deal to me.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Seattle
Reurlet 6/27/69

NOTE: Mr. Bracken is on the Special Correspondents List. This
letter recommended by the SAC, Seattle.

CEE:cam (5)

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

59 JUL 15 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ORIGINAL FILED IN

6/27/69

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

I am attaching an editorial which appeared in the SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Spokane, Washington, on June 26, 1969, dealing with the current discussion with respect to the captioned individual.

In view of his strong support of you and the Bureau's position, I thought perhaps you may desire to address a letter to Mr. JAMES BRACKEN, Editor of the SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, expressing the Bureau's appreciation for his support. Mr. BRACKEN has always been a strong supporter of the Bureau and has editorialized very favorably concerning you and the Bureau on a number of occasions. There is certainly nothing unfavorable here about him.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/ML
6070

100-106670-
NOT RECORDED
183 JUL 10 1969

ENCLOSURE

ORIGINAL FILED IN

ALL INFORMATION
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-17-81 BY SP4RM/ML
6570

CLARENCE

SP4RM/ML

been made within
the retirement of
Director of the Federal

the normal retire-
ment kept in his position
of special presidential
counsel have been com-
pleted at the White House
in the past.

at the office, how-
ever, the attorney
general, who has recently
of the late Robert F.
Kennedy general under the
administration, President John

is the revived contro-
versy over surveillance made
during the Kennedy adminis-
tration, specifically the "wiretapping"
authorized by Robert
Kennedy in touch with the activi-
ties of Martin Luther King Jr., slain
civil rights leader.

Mr. Clark had been a controversial figure
during a period of his professional career.
And there apparently had been doubts in the
Department of Justice as to his associates
and their motives.

The recent new attacks against Mr. Hoover
—who has long been under attack by Com-
munist and subversives in this country—
were sparked by Mr. Hoover's remarks that
the FBI did not tap the phones of Mr. King
without the expressed approval of then-Atty.
Gen. Kennedy. This was done in accordance
with legal requirements.

The question of personal in-
volvement in the dispute, and the op-
inion that Mr. Hoover has been trying to
maintain on that basis.

It is therefore refreshing to see Mr. Hoover
supported by President Nixon, who de-
clared the other day that he had "checked
personally" and had found that Robert Ken-
nedy as attorney general did authorize the
FBI wiretapping of Mr. King.

If the current controversy over several men
who are no longer living seems out of date
and rather futile, it should be remembered
that FBI Director Hoover's reputation is the
point at issue.

Some of his opponents would like to drive
him from public office. Naturally, he is quite
unwilling to concede some sort of wrong-
doing when he knows he was right and truth-
ful.

The way in which Mr. Nixon has upheld
Mr. Hoover should certainly receive far great-
er public credence than the questionable
suggestion coming from Mr. Clark.

(Indicate page, name of
newspaper, city and state.)

4 Spokesman-Review
Spokane, Wash.

Date: 6/26/69
Edition: final

Author:

Editor: JAMES BRACKEN

Title: DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: SEATTLE

☐ Being Investigated

100-106670-

ENCLOSURE

C

100-106670-3430
CHANGED TO
63-15519-X

MAR 9 1972

YNH / Ceg

June 30, 1969

REC-24

100-106

AP

[Handwritten signature]

6076

[Handwritten signature]

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

Chicago, Illinois 60635

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAK/kl

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of June 22nd and want to
thank you for your kind remarks regarding the FBI. In view of your
interest, I am enclosing a copy of an article which appeared in the
June 19, 1969, issue of "The Evening Star," Washington, D. C.,
which concerns our activities relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.
and sets forth the FBI's position in this matter.

MAILED 22
JUN 30 1969
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

Enclosure
"The Evening Star" article entitled, "King Wiretap Called RFK's Idea,"
6/19/69

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

NOTE: Based upon available information, Bufiles contain no record
identifiable to correspondent or his organization.

DMG:kas (3)

70 JUL 24

REC'D - READING

MM 51 4 PM 6/30/69

[Handwritten signature]

b7(c)

CHICAGO, ILL. 60636

June 22, 1969

Director J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Hoover,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-24-81 BY SP4 JPM/MLK
6070

Our association with nearly 1200 members stands solidly behind you and the FBI in recent criticism of the wire tapping on the phones of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in their unending fight to protect our country from subversives had every right to use any means available to keep the "non-violent" Dr. King under a careful watch.

There have been too many politicians and prominent Americans in their "white towers" made of ivory who proclaimed that the late Dr. King was a fine humanitarian.

However, we the citizens of our area who have always used the special faculty of common sense, have always believed Dr. King to be a danger to the society of America and a threat to the future of our great country.

Dr. Martin Luther King was hand picked by the communist party of America and had groomed him to begin the "revolution" that is now beginning in our country. He attended training classes in the company of high-ranking Communist Party officials at the notorious (now defunct) Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn.

The communist party had carefully planned his march in Selma, Ala. along with the operational control of the civil rights movement. The "fantasy" of his "non-violent" status had become a perfect cloak of disguise- so perfect it fooled presidents, congressmen, clergy, statesmen, cabinet members and his own people.

We urge you, now that the wire tapping has become public, to issue a report de-classifying the communist link and Dr. King and make this information public. Our American heritage and our future may depend on it.

YOU
don't belong to
this Association!

It belongs to YOU!

Very truly yours,

b7(c)

REC-24

100-106670-3628

b7(c)

Buffalo, New York 14223

Dear [REDACTED]

It was kind of you to write on June 23rd and comment as you did concerning my administration of this Bureau. The thoughtful remarks of you and your husband mean a great deal to me and I want you to know of my appreciation.

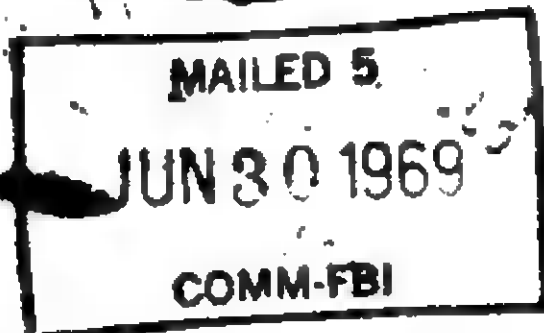
Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JEN/ML
b7c

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no information identifiable to correspondent.

LMG:kas (3)

Kas



Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

66 JUL 24 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JUN 15 08 1969

TEB
F

June 23 1969

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Edgar Hoover

Sir:

MARTIN LUTHER KING

Several years ago on 'T. V. we heard Robert Kennedy say, when asked whether he had ordered a wiretap on King, that he couldn't remember. He used that same excuse many times when asked about something that would prove to be controversial. A most convenient forgetter.

No one needed a wire tap on King at any time to know that he was timing his wife. Rumor was rife all over this country. The usual Russian gambit is to use a woman to undermine any man they wish to own or eliminate, so King was suspect. He was also a phoney and if he had lived a few more years that would have become apparent to everyone, also.

My husband and I think you are the greatest living American and we hope you never resign. Most of the people we contact feel the same way, even the youngsters and as you know, they usually don't have much respect for anyone in public office these days. We are glad that our present president (and previous ones, too) appreciate your loyalty & ability.

This note does not require an answer, sir. Thank you for reading this.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/ML
6076

Sincerely yours,

Buffalo 23 N. Y. 14223

b7(c)

REC-24

100-106670-3628

1 JUL 3 1969

ack/mml

6/30/69

LAC Loo

mml

copy:hcv

EXP. PROC.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JLM/ML

44- []
J. Edgar Hoover
Sir

607b

Several years ago on T.V we heard
Kennedy say, when asked whether he had
had a wire tap on King, that he couldn't
remember. He used that same excuse many times
when asked about something that could prove to
be controversial. A most convenient forgetter.

No one needed a wire tap on King at any time
to know that he was two-timing his wife. Rumor
was rife all over this country. The usual Russian
ploy is to use a woman to undermine any man
they wish to own or eliminate, so King was suspect.
He was also a money and if he had lived a few more
years that would have become apparent to everyone, also.

My husband and I think you are the greatest living
American and we hope you never resign. Most of the
people we contact feel the same way, even the youngsters
and as you know, they usually don't have much
respect for anyone in public office these days. We
are glad that our present president (and previous ones, too)
appreciate your loyalty & ability.

This note does not require an answer, sir. Thank
you for reading this.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

b7(c)

June 23 1969

145 Dalton Dr. Buffalo 23 N.Y.

ack 6/30/69
LMO kas

8/15

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. DE LOACH

FROM : J. H. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY
SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER 15-47-42
SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Eddy
1 - Mr. Devic

This is to explain the [REDACTED] which copies were made of the logs maintained on the electronic surveillance on the residence of Martin Luther King who [REDACTED] handwritten notation was deleted from the xerox copy.

67(c) SAC Frank Hitt, Atlanta, [REDACTED] that xerox copies of the pertinent logs were made by SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] stated that he removed by blocking [REDACTED] handwritten notation "sum up in memo" and also the lower portion of the date stamp block containing FBI Atlanta and the written name of SA Nichols and Nichols' initials. He stated that this was done because in his opinion this did not constitute a change or alteration of the facts set forth in the log and it was not pertinent, significant or of value to the substance of the information. In summary, SA [REDACTED] felt that the deletions fell in the category of administrative notations of internal Bureau interest only. SA [REDACTED] stated he did not advise his superiors nor the Bureau of the deletions because he was of the opinion that he was performing his assignment properly.

At the time the copies of the logs in question were submitted to the Bureau by the Atlanta office, the procedure was to have these logs reviewed at the field level. As of today, in accordance with your instructions, these logs are being reviewed at the Seat of Government prior to dissemination. We have had some highly productive electronic surveillances where logs running into several thousand pages have been maintained and if, in the future, such an extensive undertaking is indicated by a request for material of this nature, it will be called to your attention.

67(c) ACTION: 1. SA [REDACTED] was incorrect in believing that the phrase "sum up in memo" which he blocked out fell in the category of administrative material which should be deleted in disseminating copies of Bureau communications to outside agencies. It is the recommendation of the Special Investigative Division and the SAC, Atlanta, concurs, that SA [REDACTED] should receive a letter of censure for his handling of this situation.

100-106070-
NOT RECORDED

CONTINUED OVER JUL 15 1963

[Signature]

✓

12/1/82

FBI Changed Log^{A-3} Of Wiretap on Clay

Associated
The government has admitted the FBI changed—without informing the Justice Department—a recorded log of wiretapped conversations involving former heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay.

In disclosing this to Clay's attorneys, the Department yesterday contended it did not learn of the FBI action until June 13, several days after copies of what were purported to be the original logs were filed in the U.S. District Court in Houston.

John S. Martin Jr. and Michael T. Epstein, who are handling the Government's case against Clay, said the original record contained the notation, "Sum up in memo."

But the hand-written phrase was blanked out on documents submitted to the court concerning a Sept. 4, 1964, telephone conversation between Clay and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The discrepancy came to light when Clay's lawyers, unsatisfied with copies, demanded to see the original transcripts. Epstein and Martin then checked with the FBI and found the penned-in portion was left off copies submitted in court.

No reason was given for the omission. The FBI had no comment. And special FBI Agent Robert R. Nichols, who supervised the tap on King's telephone, claimed in an affidavit the notation was of no consequence.

Belmont _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JDR/ldh

6074

The Washington Post Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

JUN 24 1969

Date _____

100-106670-
ENCLOSURE

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

Eddy

*When and how
 to get the story
 on file?*

Record by

...has admitted... No reason was given for... The FBI had no... without in... and special FBI agent... Justice Robert R. Nichols, who super... recorded log of... the fan on King's tele... conversations invol... claimed in an affidavit... heavyweight boxing... the notation was of no conse... sequence.

...this to Clay's at... When I initially scanned this... log," Nichols said, "I made the... handwritten notation 'Sum up in... memo,' as a flag to myself to... consider this as an item to be... placed in memorandum form.

...did not learn of the... June 13, several... copies of what were... to be the original logs... in U.S. District Court... in... Upon subsequent detailed re... view of the entire log and evalu... ation of its contents," he added, "I decided the substance of the... information did not warrant the... preparation of a memorandum."

John S. Martin Jr. and Mi... chael T. Epstein, who are han... dling the government's case... said the original... contained the notation, "Summary memo."

...the hand-written... was blanked out on docu... ment submitted to the court... concerning a Sept. 4, 1964, tele... phone conversation between... Clay and Dr. Martin Luther... King Jr.

...discrepancy came to light... when Clay's lawyers, unsatisfied... with copies, demanded to see the... original transcripts. Epstein and... Martin then checked with the... found the penned-in... was left off copies sub... mitted in court.

Government attorneys were... happy about the affair, ex... pressing concern that the differ... ences would cast doubts on the... validity of the documents them... selves.

As summarized in the record, the conversation Nichols consid... ered unimportant was one in which Clay advised King to "watch out for them whities."

Clay, sentenced to five years' imprisonment for refusing in... duction into the armed forces, is seeking further federal court hearings in an effort to overturn his conviction.

The Washington Post Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) *D-2* _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
 The Daily World _____
 New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Examiner (Washington) _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/ML
 6076

Date _____

J.H. Hale to Mr. Eric Fouch
 memo 6/24/69, ARECJOD:jg
 J.H. Hale to Mr. DeLoach
 memo 6/24/69 ARECJOD:jg
 100-106670-
 COPY MADE FOR MR. TOLSON

Lawyers Dispute Wiretapping

Heavy-duty FBI wiretaps on the late Martin Luther King Jr. are being challenged by lawyers who say there is no evidence that the government has avoided making a case for the fighter's conviction. The Clay hearing, which the fighter's lawyer, Charles Morgan Jr., of Atlanta, and his associates. The New York Times has reported Nichols as testifying that he was in charge of the surveillance of King until May 1965 "and it was my understanding that it went on after that."

3. The Star quoted Hoover as saying that on Oct. 7, 1963, he reported to Kennedy that it was technically feasible to wiretap telephones at headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta and at an unnamed location in New York. But testimony in the U.S. District Court in Houston shows the government exhibiting a log purported to be the result of a wiretap of King's home telephone. This raises the question of how many King taps the FBI had, and which ones were approved by Kennedy or anyone else.

he had memoranda signed by Kennedy authorizing the wiretaps on King. Kennedy resigned as attorney general on Sept. 3, 1964, but Hoover told The Star that the King wiretap was discontinued on April 30, 1965. Since Katzenbach and Clark deny approving any King wiretaps, who approved FBI eavesdropping during the almost eight months after Kennedy left the attorney generalship? The federal court brief claims that either Hoover lied in saying that the King wiretap was discontinued on April 30, 1965, or else FBI Special Agent Robert Nichols perjured himself in his Houston testimony. "It was Special Agent Nichols who stated that the King wiretap had continued until April 4, 1968, the day of Dr. King's assassination," the brief states. (The transcript of Nichols' testimony has not been printed, so the brief reflects the memory of Clay's lawyer, Charles Morgan Jr., of Atlanta, and his associates. The New York Times has reported Nichols as testifying that he was in charge of the surveillance of King until May 1965 "and it was my understanding that it went on after that.")

he had memoranda signed by Kennedy authorizing the wiretaps on King. Kennedy resigned as attorney general on Sept. 3, 1964, but Hoover told The Star that the King wiretap was discontinued on April 30, 1965. Since Katzenbach and Clark deny approving any King wiretaps, who approved FBI eavesdropping during the almost eight months after Kennedy left the attorney generalship? The federal court brief claims that either Hoover lied in saying that the King wiretap was discontinued on April 30, 1965, or else FBI Special Agent Robert Nichols perjured himself in his Houston testimony. "It was Special Agent Nichols who stated that the King wiretap had continued until April 4, 1968, the day of Dr. King's assassination," the brief states. (The transcript of Nichols' testimony has not been printed, so the brief reflects the memory of Clay's lawyer, Charles Morgan Jr., of Atlanta, and his associates. The New York Times has reported Nichols as testifying that he was in charge of the surveillance of King until May 1965 "and it was my understanding that it went on after that.")

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/ML
6076

*I have already
asked about this
testimony but have
not yet received an
answer.*

- The Washington Post Times Herald
- The Washington Daily News
- The Evening Star (Washington)
- The Sunday Star (Washington)
- Daily News (New York)
- Sunday News (New York)
- New York Post
- The New York Times
- The Sun (Baltimore)
- The Daily World
- The New Leader
- The Wall Street Journal
- The National Observer
- People's World
- Examiner (Washington)

Date JUN 23 1969

100-106670-
ENCLOSURE

Date of Mail

6-9-69

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject

JUNE MAIL

Martin Luther King

Removed By

98 JUL 22 1969 150

File Number

100-106670-3627

Perma Charge Out

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies): _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒ For your information: JUNE file BEING PROCESSED AND
will be sent AT A LATER DATE.

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Didn't OK King Tap, Clark Says

By Ronald J. Ostrow and
Nicholas C. Chriss
Los Angeles Times

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark said yesterday that while he headed the Justice Department, the FBI had no authorization to wiretap or bug the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In an interview, Clark said: "The implication that people thought Dr. King was a security threat are outrageous."

Clark also denied that he ever had authorized the FBI to bug or wiretap Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims.

Clark's statement raises the question of whether the FBI acted without authority in conducting electronic surveillance of the two Negro leaders while Clark was in office. It also suggests that the FBI may have violated the 1965 Executive Order by President Johnson providing that no wire tapping "shall be undertaken or continued without first obtaining the approval of the Attorney General."

The first official acknowledgement that Dr. King and Muhammad had been monitored came last week in Houston during a Federal court hearing on the appeal by former heavyweight champion Cassius Clay of his 1967 draft refusal conviction.

Clay contends that FBI eavesdropping on his conversations with Dr. King and Muhammad tainted his conviction.

Confirmation that Dr. King's home phone was tapped from 1964 until around the time of his assassination, April 4, 1968, came from FBI agent Robert Nichols. Asked if the tap continued until the assassination date, Nichols nodded.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP7 JML

6076

Who did not authorize the
King & Muhammad
tapes?

h

The Washington Post
Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star (Washington)

The Sunday Star (Washington)

Daily News (New York)

Sunday News (New York)

New York Post

The New York Times

The Sun (Baltimore)

The Daily World

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

People's World

Examiner (Washington)

REC 38

100-106670-

3 JUL 3 1969

JUN 8 1969

Date

MEMO. IS IN PREPARATION

79 JUL 11 1969

JUL 7 1969

See memo memo to Sullivan 6/10/69

he

K

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Date of Mail 6-10-69

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject JUNE MAIL *Martin Luther King*

Removed By 98 JUL 22 1969

File Number 100-106670-3625

Permanent Serial Charge Out

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒ For your information: JUNE file BEING PROCESSED AND
will be sent AT A LATER DATE.

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

June Mail

6/21/69

When removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject

JUNE MAIL-

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Removed By 98 JUL 17 1969

File Number 100-106670-3624

FBI

Permanent Serial Charge Out

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒ For your information: JUNE file BEING PROCESSED AND
will be sent AT A LATER DATE.

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EX-103

Archie, Texas 78704

b7(c)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JPM/ML

6076

I have received your communication of June 24th,
with enclosure, and certainly appreciate your kind remarks and
sentiments regarding my administration of the FBI. I hope that
our future efforts will continue to merit your approval. In view
of your concern, I am enclosing an article which sets forth the
FBI's position concerning the Martin Luther King, Jr., wiretap
controversy.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 22
JUL 1 - 1969
COMM-FBI

Enclosure

"The Evening Star" article regarding King wiretap, 6-19-69

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent.

TELETYPE UNIT

TEB/la
Jen
H
ace
SOWH 4724

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

b7(c)

Austin, Texas 78704
June 24, 1969

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your selfless service toward law and order in this nation, and the preservation of the Constitution. I am sure that there have been many heart-breaking moments for you in your years of service due to Supreme Court decisions, politically motivated acts, and unfair criticism by uninformed individuals. This country is fortunate in that we have had someone with your ability and integrity. We humbly ask that you remain as long as you feel physically able, for America is sorely in need of worthy leaders.

The enclosed article has eaten upon my heart like a cancer. Isn't there some way that the truth about King and some of the Conspiracy can be published? It is time that the myth that surrounds him is ended and the public is informed as to what he was up to. There are a lot of Black Militants in this area, and gun registration won't stop their intentions. Concerned citizens are keeping their eyes OPEN.

A Grateful Citizen

b7(c)

1/187

MARTIN LUTHER KING

1-ENCLOSURE
A

EX-103

REC-26

100-106670-3623

JUL 2

JUL 27 1969

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 J2M/ML
6076

CORRESPONDENCE
PERS. REC. UNIT

REC-103

32 JUN 27 1969

TO GO!

...is
than when
ability to
threat to
person
lot of peril
the public
of it — to
missions of a
legal FBI wiretaps
of homes and
Department official
in Federal
that Dr. Martin
was under
surveillance in 1964
and the FBI agent who
pressed this surveillance told
court it was my
standing that it went on
...
whole truth is that Dr.
King's phones were tapped, his
rooms bugged, and he was
personally shadowed right up to
the time he was slain in
Memphis on April 4, 1968.

FBI agent, C. Barry
Pickett, told the court in
Houston, Texas, that for four
solid years he had listened eight
hours a day, five days a week,
to the conversations of Elijah
Muhammad, leader of the Black
Muslims. Pickett employed both
a telephone wiretap and a
microphone planted in Mr.
Muhammad's home.
These cases of electronic
eavesdropping, which violate
both federal law and a
Presidential executive order,
were disclosed in a hearing on
former heavyweight boxing
champion Cassius Clay's effort
to overturn a five year prison
sentence for his refusal to be
drafted.
These buggings, which caught
some Clay conversations in
their "net," are but a fraction
of the illegal wiretaps that have
moved this country far closer to
a police state than most
Americans realize.

Indi-
reaction in part of most
Americans?
First, there is the general FBI
justification for such tactics:
"national security."
Gen. Ramon
s emphatically
had no authority
to wiretap or bug Dr. King,
asserts that "the implication
that people thought Dr. King
was a security threat is
outrageous."
Still, that term "national
security" is more powerful than
"motherhood," for it evokes
fear, and men still surrender
more things — including liberty
— out of fear than they do out
of love.

The puzzling
Clark's statement
though he is
hear of the wiretap
bugging of Dr.
Clark possibly
unaware
justifying larger
by titillating
men and feeding
ammunition to
who despised the civil
leader — all by way
revealing "tidbits" picked
through the wiretaps
buggings?
Was Clark unaware that
certain FBI officials were
roaming the country leaking to
newspaper editors poisonous

stories about Dr. King and what
the buggings allegedly had
revealed?
Everybody else in Washington
of any consequence knew it, and
many deplore it, but no one
seemed to know how to go about
making the FBI bend to the
laws of the land.
There is a not-too-flippant
assumption in Washington that
J. Edgar Hoover has been FBI
director for 45 years because all
the recent Presidents have
assumed that he knew too much
about them to be replaced. So
not only was he not replaced by
any of the younger, very able
FBI men in the normal course
of things, but Presidents
Johnson and Nixon have felt it
wise or expedient to waive a
law saying Hoover has reached

the rocking chair age.
Hoover ought to be replaced
as FBI director — immediately.
As Washington agency heads
go, Hoover may have done a
better job than most. But the
people of this country knew
something when they limited the
time one man might serve in
the Presidency. They saw
personal fiefdoms as inimical to
the democracy, the personal
freedom, that we have come to
cherish.
If it is dangerous to have one
man serve three full terms as
President, it is far more
dangerous to have one man take
lifetime possession of a powerful
police-investigative agency that
prods into the deepest secrets of
the most prominent, most
honored citizens and has the

power to discredit, even
destroy, almost anyone. The
kind of abuse of and contempt
for the law manifest in the King
and Muhammad eavesdropping
becomes almost inevitable when
a man is left in a key job as
long as Hoover has been.
Were Hoover a more
thoughtful man, or as concerned
about the preservation of
democracy and liberty as his
speeches suggest, he would have
resigned long ago. He would not
keep putting Presidents in the
political bind of deciding to keep
him or ease him out.
It is clear Hoover has no
intention of resigning. So when
does the President muster the
courage to say: "Well done,
thou good and faithful servant.
Goodbye."?

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/m
6576
100-106670-3623
ENCLOSURE

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

at the following

AIRTEL

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)

SAC, NEW YORK (100-136585)

MARTIN LUTHER KING
RM RACIAL MATTERS

ReNYtels to Bureau 6/21/69 and 6/22/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an article appearing in the "New York Post", June 20, 1969, page 53, captioned, "ABout Hoover, King and RFK," by JAMES A. WECHSLER.

New York Office will report further information from [redacted] when obtained.

b(2)

NO LHM to follow.

b(7)(D)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 [signature]
6576

1 + 4 encl 806 D

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - New York

JB:amf
(5)

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3622

REC-49 JUN 23 1969

RACIAL INT. SECT.

Approved: [signature]
Special Agent in Charge
53 JUN 24 1969

Sent _____ M Per _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SPAN/min

6076

(MAGAZINE PAGE FIVE) 53

Out Hoover, King and RFK

JAMES A. WECHSLER

With the knowledge and belief, Robert F. Kennedy did authorize the FBI's wiretapping on Martin Luther King. It was not a decision that he viewed in retrospect with any pride. That is one reason why the current FBI effort to document Kennedy's involvement in the case has a quality of posthumous obscurity.

For the issue obscured by these self-serving and belated FBI exercises in revelation is whether this outrageous intrusion was Kennedy's idea or whether it was a response to the kind of data that J. Edgar Hoover has inflicted on innumerable Attorneys General in pressing for the sanction he obtained from Kennedy.

This is no simplistic apology for RFK. I should like to believe that he would have responded differently if the issue had been presented to him later in his life. But this cannot be proved. What I do know—on the basis of personal conversation—is that he had a deepening concern about the FBI director's role during his final years on earth and that he would almost certainly have arranged for Hoover's retirement if he had achieved the Presidency.

What is intolerably sickening about the present succession of official and unofficial releases from Mr. Hoover's office is that they seem designed to stain the lives of both Dr. King and Bob Kennedy.

It is understandable that Mr. Hoover should feel a certain indignation about published reports that he acted on his own, and therefore lawlessly, in ordering the surveillance on Dr. King.

ENCLOSURE

So let us grant him the point that he and Robert Kennedy—as he had so many other colleagues in the same office—into ratifying a dreary snooping exercise.

— It is the unhappy history of the Justice Dept. that Hoover has for so long exerted this kind of continuous political blackmail. In this instance he communicated to Kennedy the view that King was in contact with certain suspect characters; if Kennedy ignored the warning and King proved to be a bomb thrower (rather than a victim), the FBI's skilled public relations apparatus would have quickly whispered the word to the Washington press corps that the Attorney General had capriciously rejected Hoover's plea for continuing security of this dangerous man.

In fact what Hoover "got" on King was that he had a playful quality in his life, and that the civil rights movement did not always obey the codes of private puritanism. Certainly it was also true that he met with many varieties of political men, some of them with FBI dossiers, but his essential integrity and political independence were never seriously challenged. Only the crude format of "raw" FBI material could have rendered him guilty by association.

Painful as some of the irrelevant details may be, it is time that the full story be unfolded. This, I believe, is what both Dr. King and Robert Kennedy would have wanted in the light of the FBI's current release of selective information and of the apparent expansion of wiretapping under the regime of Attorney General Mitchell.

The question is not whether Martin Luther King was a personal saint, or whether Kennedy should have asked many more questions before letting Hoover run wild. It is whether the FBI should be allowed and encouraged to collect random information about public men that can eventually become weapons of blackmail.

When J. Edgar Hoover branded Dr. King "the most notorious liar in the country" after King had assailed the FBI's laggard activity in civil rights cases—King could not fight back effectively because he knew that some aspects of his personal life had been monitored by Hoover's men. This was political terrorism of the vilest sort. Now since Mr. Hoover has chosen to perpetuate the battle—against both King and Kennedy—because of his sensitivity to journalistic criticism, it is time the whole story was aired before a Congressional tribunal. The two dead men cannot be injured by such an inquest; many living men may be spared injustice and indignity at the hands of an organization that too long ago became a state within a state.

6/19/69

I have heard your statement that Robert Kennedy authorized you to tap the telephone of Rev. M. L. King

I thus ask: If this is true, then why didn't you tell this when Robert Kennedy was alive?

Hoping you can answer, I am

Sincerely

Taxpayer

COPY:hcv

MR. TOLSON _____
MR. DELOACH _____
MR. MOHR _____
MR. BISHOP _____
MR. CASPER _____
MR. CALLAHAN _____
MR. CONRAD _____
MR. FELT _____
MR. GALE _____
MR. ROSEN _____
MR. SULLIVAN _____
MR. TAVEL _____
MR. TROTTER _____
MR. JONES _____
TELE. ROOM _____
MISS HOLMES _____
MRS. METCALF _____
MISS GANDY _____

Hoping you can answer, I am

Sincerely

Taxpayer

COPY:hcv

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4/MLM
6076

Dear Mr. Hoover

I have heard you said that
Robert Kennedy authorized you to tap the
telephones of Sen. M. C. Kennedy

I thus ask: If this is true, then
why didn't you tell this to Sen.
Robert Kennedy was alive?

Hoping you can answer them

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

b7(c)

Tax payer

EXP. PROC.
31 JUN 23 1963

[Redacted text]

b7(c)

[Redacted text]

100-106670-3621

Run to away 11/692

62-1111-1111

JUN 23 1969

CORRESPONDENCE

Memorandum

Loa

6/69

FROM

T. E. Bishop

SUBJECT

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIS T

In memorandum from G. C. Moore to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated 6/21/69, it was recommended and approved by the Director that Bishop personally contact Congressman H. R. Gross (R. - Iowa), with whom we have had cordial relations, with reference to his letter of June 19, 1969, and advise him that due to various ramifications involved in the King telephone surveillance, it is not possible to furnish him any additional data.

With the Director's approval, Bishop contacted Congressman Gross on the afternoon of 6/23/69. Congressman Gross was very cordial and, when Bishop advised him that it would not be possible to furnish him any additional data concerning the wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King other than what has appeared in the press, he stated that he completely understood. Congressman Gross stated that his letter to the Director of June 19, 1969, was motivated solely by the desire to furnish the Director a Congressional forum if the Director wished to utilize the services of Congressman Gross in making public additional facts concerning the approval of the wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King and facts concerning the communist associations and influence over Dr. King.

Congressman Gross requested that Mr. Hoover send him a brief acknowledgment of his letter of June 19, 1969, advising that it is not possible to furnish him any additional data, so that Congressman Gross may retain it in his files for record purposes in the event any inquiries should be made of him on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Congressman Gross.

Enclosure 6-29-69

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Gale - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones - Enclosure

TEB:jo

59 JUL 14 1969

JUN 27 1969

6076
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/LL

EX-101

✓
GROSS

100-106670-3620

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

113d W9-29-651

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date June 22, 1969

Attached relates to article by James A. Wechsler which appeared in the "New York Post," a New York City daily newspaper, edition of 6/20/69. The article pertains to our special coverage on Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wechsler has been a long-time critic of the Bureau and, as can be expected, this article is also critical.

Due to nature of information contained in teletype, no dissemination being made.

TPD:gmt

DATE 2-14-81

SPY/MI/

6076

WLS
GCHQ

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

WA 1

11 35 AM 100-136585-22-69 MAF

TO DIRECTOR (100-136585) PL: 100-136585

ATTN: DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE

FROM NEW YORK (100-136585) 2P

MARTIN LUTHER KING; RACIAL MATTERS

THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF AN ARTICLE IN THE
"NEW YORK POST" FRIDAY JUNE TWENTY, NINETEEN SIXTY
NINE, PAGE FIFTY THREE, CAPTIONED "ABOUT HOOVER, KING
AND RFK" BY JAMES A. WECHSLER.

KENNEDY DID AUTHORIZE A TAP ON KING. IT WAS A
DECISION HE LATER VIEWED WITHOUT PRIDE. CURRENT FBI
EFFORTS HAVE A QUALITY OF "POSTHUMOUS ORSENITY".

"WHAT I DO KNOW, ON THE BASIS OF PERSONAL CONVERSATION,
IS THAT HE (KENNEDY) HAD A DEEPENING CONCERN ABOUT THE
FBI DIRECTOR'S ROLE DURING HIS FINAL YEARS ON EARTH,
AND THAT HE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE ARRANGED FOR

HOOVER'S RETIREMENT IF HE HAD ACHIEVED THE PRESIDENCY.

END PAGE ONE

EX-103

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/L

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

6076

PAGE TWO

FBI REPORTS SEEM DESIGNED TO JAM THE LIVES OF BOTH KING AND KENNEDY.

LET US GRANT THAT HOOVER BEGGLED KENNEDY AS HE DID OTHER ATTORNEYS GENERAL INTO ENTERING A DREARY SNOOPING EXERCISE. THIS IS REFERRED TO BY WECHSLER AS "POLITICAL BLACKMAIL."

IF KENNEDY IGNORED HOOVER'S WARNING ABOUT KING, AND KING TURNED OUT TO BE A BOMB SHELL, THE FBI SKILLED PUBLIC RELATIONS APPARATUS WOULD WHISPER KENNEDY'S REJECTION OF HOOVER'S PLEA.

WECHSLER CLAIMS KING COULD NOT ANSWER HOOVER'S STATEMENTS BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT SOME ASPECTS OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE HAD BEEN MONITORED BY THE FBI. HOOVER'S CURRENT "RELEASE OF SELECTIVE INFORMATION" IS DUE TO HIS SENSITIVITY OF GENERALISTIC CRITICISM.

WECHSLER CALLS FOR THE ENTIRE STORY TO BE AIRED SO THAT "MANY LIVING MEN MAY BE SPARED INJUSTICE AND INDIGNITY AT THE HANDS OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT TOO LONG AGO BECAME A STATE WITHIN A STATE."

XEROX COPIES OF THE ABOVE ARTICLE ARE BEING PROMPTLY FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU.

END

FBI WASH DC HWL

CC- MR. SULLIVAN

GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DATE: 6/26/69

FROM: Bishop

SUBJECT: WILLIAM C. BARTON, ASSOCIATED PRESS
JOHN MC KENZIE, WASHINGTON POST
REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

Lead
11/10

Both Barton of the AP and McKenzie from the Post contacted my office yesterday to request personal interviews with the Director. Mr. Barton advised that in view of the interview given by Mr. Hoover which appeared in the Detroit Free Press, his desk had requested him to make a formal request of the Director. The Director's extremely heavy schedule was explained to Mr. Barton and he said he fully understood the problem.

It will be recalled that following the story in the Star last week concerning the wiretaps on Martin Luther King that McKenzie, from the Post, requested an interview and was told quite firmly that the Director would not grant an interview to him. In his call last evening, McKenzie was most persistent and again referred to the Star interview and said that in view of the Detroit Free Press story, they felt all the more they should have the opportunity for an exclusive interview with the Director. He asked that he be called today with the Director's decision and he will be informed, of course, that the Director will not grant an interview.

For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones

- 1 - Miss Gandy
- 1 - Miss Holmes

HPL:hak (6)

hbk

7/1

Right

NOT RECORDED

56 JUN 27 1969
46 JUN 30 1969

CORRESPONDENCE

68 JUL 14 1969

CONTAINED
HEREIN UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/21/81 BY SP4 JRM/ld

6076

ORIGINAL FILED IN

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JMM/ML
ON 2-14-81
6076

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 6/20/69

Attached relates to a conversation between Coretta King and Stanley Levison during which Mrs. King advised she had been contacted by Ethel Kennedy (Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy) on 6/20/69 and that Ethel Kennedy said she was sorry about what has been in the paper. (Apparently referring to the article concerning the authorization from Robert F. Kennedy to tap Martin Luther King's telephones). Levison felt the entire affair will be forgotten, but that FBI Director Hoover will be bothered by it because it leaves him as the man responsible. Mrs. King agreed stating, "I feels like he is the most guilty." Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party as late as 1964.

In view of the nature of this information and the secret source from which it was obtained, no dissemination is being made.

Classified by 6080 Cal/MP
Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite 12/29/77

ABK:chs

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

VIA TELETYPE
JUN 20 1969
END

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

PM URGENT 6-20-69 AWS
DIRECTOR 100-106670 (CODE)
ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
FROM NEW YORK 100-136585

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF DATE

SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SM-C, CP: AT.
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: ATLANTA

b(2) b(7)(D)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (CLASSIFY "SECRET") ON JUNE TWO ZERO,
SIXTYNINE: Classified by 6089 Red/TAP
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite 12/30/170N

ON JUNE TWO ZERO, SIXTYNINE, CORETTA KING TOLD
STANLEY LEVISON THAT ETHEL KENNEDY HAD CONTACTED HER THAT
DATE TO SAY SHE WAS SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN IN THE PAPER
(APPARENTLY REFERRING TO THE ARTICLE CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION
FROM ROBERT F. KENNEDY, WHEN ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO REC 93
MARTIN LUTHER KING'S TELEPHONES). CORETTA ADDED THAT ETHEL
KENNEDY IMPLIED THAT SHE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH
THEIR FRIENDSHIP. CORETTA SAID SHE REPLIED THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD
HOW THE PRESS CAN BE DEVISIVE AT TIMES AND THAT THIS DOES NOT
COLOR HER ATTITUDE IN ANYWAY TOWARD THE (KENNEDY) FAMILY.

CORETTA ALSO TOLD LEVISON THAT ETHEL KENNEDY SAID
"THEY" HAD A MEETING AT HER HOME THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AND TALKED

END PAGE ONE
70 JUL 10 1969

MR. DELACROIX FOR THE DIRECTOR

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1654/100
10/30/80
UNRECORDED
JUN 30 1969
PUNAM
S. H. Fox

PAGE TWO

CORETTA SAID
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ETHEL KENNEDY WAS SAYING ABOUT
I WANT TO ASK HER.

LEVISON COMMENTED THAT HE FELT CORETTA'S ANSWER
WAS CORRECTLY RIGHT BECAUSE THERE IS NO POINT IN ATTEMPTING
TO ASSESS WHAT ROLE BOBBY KENNEDY PLAYED SINCE THERE IS NO
WAY OF REALLY KNOWING.

CORETTA STATED THAT THIS WAS "SORT OF PASSING THE
BUCK, AND THEY'RE TRYING TO PUT IT ALL OFF ON HIM". SHE
ADDED THAT HE MAY HAVE AGREED AND GONE ALONG WITH IT.

LEVISON REMARKED THAT THEY KNOW KING, WHETHER HE
FELT BOBBY KENNEDY WAS INVOLVED OR NOT, STILL MAINTAINED A
FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. HE SAID IF KING FELT BOBBY
KENNEDY HAD DONE ANYTHING, HE FORGAVE HIM NO DOUBT BASED ON
THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TIME, THE FACT HE WAS ALWAYS
SUPER NERVOUS ABOUT HIS BROTHER (PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY).
LEVISON SAID THIS IS THE ATTITUDE CORETTA SHOULD TAKE. HE
SAID IF THE PRESS "WANTS TO DIG UP GARBAGE" IT SHOULD NOT
BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP.

CORETTA SAID THAT FOLLOWING HER CONVERSATION WITH
ETHEL KENNEDY, THE PHONE RANG AGAIN AND THAT THE GIRL WHO
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

ANSWERED ~~THE~~ SENATOR KENNEDY. CORETTA SAID, HOWEVER,
SHE AND LEVISON AGREED THAT SENATOR
KENNEDY ~~WAS~~ HAVE FOUND OUT THAT ETHEL CONTACTED CORETTA.
GO THROUGH WITH THE CALL. ~~X~~

STATED THAT THE PRESSURE AT THIS POINT
MANY LIBERALS WHO RESENT FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER'S
HOOVER GAVE AN ANSWER. HE ADDED THAT HOOVER
HAD ANSWERED BACK BY (RAMSEY) CLARK, AND THAT CLARK'S
ANSWER WAS RIGHT. ~~X~~

HE GAVE HIS OPINION THAT THE ENTIRE AFFAIR
WILL "BLAZE AWAY" AND ADDED THAT "IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING
YOU CAN KEEP GOING." LEVISON FELT THE ENTIRE THING WILL BE
FORGOTTEN BUT THAT FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER WILL BE BOTHERED BY IT
BECAUSE IT LEAVES HIM AS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE. ~~X~~

CORETTA AGREED, STATING "I FEELS LIKE HE IS THE
MOST GUILTY." ~~X~~

LEVISON COMMENTED THAT CORETTA'S SUGGESTION THAT SHE
GET TOGETHER WITH ETHEL KENNEDY COULD BE FRUITFUL AND SHOULD ~~X~~

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

BE DONE REASONABLY SOON. LEVISON SUGGESTED THAT CORETTA
SET UP THE MEETING AND THAT THEY COULD TALK ABOUT IT BEFORE
SHE AND ETHEL KENNEDY MEET.

memo
NO ~~LHM~~ BEING SUBMITTED.

END

WA...LRC

FBI WASH DC

CC. MR. SULLIVAN

~~SECRET~~

4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
June 27, 1969

The attached letter regarding
Martin Luther King and newspaper
articles were sent to the Director
from an anonymous source.

Envelope is postmarked
San Francisco, California,
June 25, 1969.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

hcv

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 [signature]
b7c b7d

C. Moore
File
5-180

- MR. TOLSON
- MR. DELOACH
- MR. MOHR
- MR. BISHOP
- MR. CASPER
- MR. CALLAHAN
- MR. CONRAD
- MR. FELT
- MR. GALE
- MR. ROSEN
- MR. SUTHERLAND
- MR. TAVEL
- MR. TROTTER
- MR. JONES
- TELE. ROOM
- MISS HOLMES
- MRS. METCALF
- MISS GANDY

ENCLOSURE

55 JUL 8 1969

100-106670-
NOT RECORDED
5 JUL 3 1969

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AT COMMUNIST TRAINING SCHOOL



The above picture was made by an employee of the State of Georgia, at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee during the Labor Day week-end of 1957. The photographer was sent to the Highlander Folk School by the Georgia Commission on Education. The Highlander Folk School was abolished by an act of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee at a later date.

Those numbered in the picture are:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Montgomery boycott and the Birmingham riots. Karl Prussion, a counterspy for the FBI for twelve years, charges that Martin Luther King belongs to sixty Communist-front organizations — more than any Communist in the United States.
2. Abner W. Berry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.
3. Aubrey Williams, President of the Southern Conference Education Fund, Inc., The Transmission Belt in the South for the Communist Party.
4. Myles Horton, Director of Highlander Folk School for Communist Training, Monteagle, Tennessee.

These "Four Horsemen" of racial agitation have brought racial disturbances, strife and violence in their advancement of the Communist doctrine of "racial nationalism."

JOIN THE AUGUSTA COURIER IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Copies available — 100 for \$1.00 (include shipping for postage)

Alert Americans Association. Box 1222, L. A., Cal. 90052

Order **RIGHT WING DIRECTORY**, listing all Right Wing Activities

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-24-81 BY SP-1/MLD

6076

King Wiretap

BY RONALD J. OSGOOD

WASHINGTON — Two

communications then United States man re- to an- raised by which he for itself. We comment at

But nothing facet continued rights lo after Kennedy attorney general September, 1963.

The Times learned Wednesday from a government source that FBI records showed a tap on Dr. King's phone maintained from November 1963, until April 30, 1965, when then Atty. Gen. Nicholas D. Katzenbach ordered it removed.

Letter to Rowan

The FBI comment took the form of a letter to columnist Carl T. Rowan from Clyde A. Tolson, FBI associate director. Tolson denounced as "malicious" and "scurrilous" Rowan's call last Sunday for FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to be replaced because of the eavesdropping.

... the wiretap on Martin Luther King Jr. was specifically approved in advance in writing by the late attorney general of the United States, Mr. Robert F. Kennedy," Tolson said in his letter to Rowan.

"This device was strictly in the field of internal

Department law- of have acknow- ledged for the first time

June 4 that the FBI had been monitoring Dr. King. The disclosure was made in a hearing in Houston on an appeal by ex-heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali from his conviction for refusing to be drafted.

Ali's conversation with Dr. King was picked up by the tap on Dr. King's Atlanta home phone.

It was also learned from government sources Wednesday that the FBI first obtained authorization to tap Dr. King's phone from Atty. Gen. Kennedy in October, 1963.

The bureau, these sources said, requested and received authority to install the tap to check on Dr. King's alleged contact with a Communist Party member. At the time, the FBI was investigating

whether the civil rights movement had been infiltrated by Communists.

It could not be learned whether Kennedy ever called a halt to the electronic surveillance of Dr. King.

Reliable sources said Katzenbach, who succeeded Kennedy as attorney general, did not learn of the tap immediately upon taking over the Justice Department in September, 1964. But it is known that he ordered it removed April 30, 1965.

Ramsey Clark, who took over from Katzenbach Oct. 1, 1966, was the first attorney general to insti-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-24-81 BY SP4MJA

tute a procedure for periodically reviewing all FBI wiretapping. Clark has

told The Times that beginning in December, 1966, he required the bureau every three months to give him a list of every person under electronic surveillance. Clark said Dr. King's name never appeared on the list, and he called "outrageous" the implication that people viewed Dr. King as a security threat.

According to FBI records, the tap was cut off April 30, 1965. But a question has arisen as to whether it may have continued far beyond that date

Report on Wiretap Called Unfair

Ex-Attorneys General Criticize FBI Chief on Saying Robert Kennedy Initiated Ord

BY RONALD J. OSGOOD

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Two former attorneys general accused J. Edgar Hoover Thursday night of making "false" and "deceptive" statements after the FBI director was quoted as saying Robert F. Kennedy initiated a wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King.

Nicholas D. Katzenbach and Ramsey Clark spoke out after Hoover, in a copyrighted interview with the Washington Evening Star, said Kennedy, when attorney general, not only authorized but proposed the tap because of reports Dr. King was associating with a lawyer with Communist connections.

The King wiretap was authorized after the FBI made a case that national security was involved. Attorneys general have had presidential approval for wiretaps in cases of national security since the Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Katzenbach, asked about Hoover's statement, said: "... To say or imply that this tap was the original conception of Robert Kennedy—that he was the moving force in this situation—or that he had any doubts whatsoever as to Dr. King's integrity or loyalty is false."

Clark Comments

Clark, also asked for his reaction, said it was "deceptive" for Hoover to portray the FBI as "a reluctant eavesdropper of Dr. King." He added:

"Mr. Hoover repeatedly requested me to authorize FBI wiretaps on Dr. King while I was attorney general. The last of these requests, none of which was granted, came two days before the murder of Dr. King."

of possible political repercussions.

Commenting on this allegation, Katzenbach said "Truth is seldom found selective and partial closures of this type."

Katzenbach declined to amplify on this part of statement which suggested that Hoover picked chose among documents support his claim Kennedy was the moving force behind the King surveillance.

Katzenbach, in a phone interview from New York home, said was "unworthy of tradition of the FBI attack in this fashion reputation of two (Kennedy and Dr. King) who cannot defend themselves."

Called Unfair

"What has been unfair to Sen. Kennedy and Dr. King and standards that I am consonant with the grit and sense of justice which have always before been the conflict of Mr. Hoover to administration of justice," Katzenbach said.

Katzenbach served as deputy attorney general under Kennedy and succeeded him in the post when Kennedy resigned to run for the Senate.

Burke Marshall, who headed the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division under Kennedy, reported the charge Hoover was citing those documents that support his assertions.

"It's outrageous for Hoover to give characterization of selective documents to support partially two programs in order to deal adverse publicity to the bureau," Marshall said. "The impression he gave when he did this

~~SECRET~~

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE
Date 6/26/69

Attached was received from a highly confidential source and concerns a telephone conversation between Andrew Young, Executive Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Stanley Levison. Young said that he thinks Kunstler (believed to be William Kunstler, New York attorney for the Black Panther Party (BPP), is about to file a suit enjoining the FBI from wire tapping BPP and several other organizations. Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party as late as 1964.

The Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General and Internal Security Division are being advised.

ABK:TDR/chs/lis

Not done, info appeared in newspaper 6/26/69

hc
ph
wcr
DECLASSIFIED BY *SP. 4 JRM/W*

ON 6-2-1481

6026

6080 Lab/TAP

12/30/77

~~SECRET~~

VIA TELETYPE

JUN 25 1969

ENCIPHERED

GAAGAAGYAA---

NEW YORK

PM URGENT 6-25-69 AWS

SECTOR 100-106670 (CODE)

ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

NEW YORK 100-136585

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JML/L
ON 2-14-81

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Classified
DATE 4/19/81

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; SM-C (OO- AT).
OFFICE OF ORIGIN - ATLANTA

FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED]

b(2) b(7)(D)

ON SIX TWENTY FIVE SIXTYNINE

(CLASSIFY "SECRET").

ON SIX TWENTYFIVE SIXTYNINE, ANDREW YOUNG, EXECUTIVE
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
VICE-PRESIDENT, SCLC, ASKED STANLEY LEVISON, IF HE WAS "KEEPING
UP ON THE TIMES (NEW YORK TIMES) THING ON WIRE TAPPING"
(ALLUDING TO THE TAPPING OF TELEPHONES OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING.) LEVISON REPLIED THAT HE WAS AND YOUNG SAID THAT HE
THINKS THAT KUNSTLER IS ABOUT TO FILE A SUIT ENJOINING THE
FBI AGAINST WIRE TAPPING THE BLACK PANTHERS, WOMEN'S STRIKE
FOR PEACE, THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE,
END PAGE ONE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Classified
DATE 2-14-81

100-106670-3617

REC-128

JUN 27 1969

Classified by 6000 Cal/100
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite 12/2/77

TELETYPE TO
JUL 9 1969
ETB

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

THE ... OF RACIAL ... THE STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC
SOCIAL ... EVERYTHING TO THE LEFT OF US."

... SAID THE PROBLEM IS THAT KUNSTLER "IS TRYING
TO GET US IN THE SOUP BUT THAT'S JUST NOT OUR COMPANY."

... AGREED.

KUNSTLER IS BELIEVED TO BE NY ATTORNEY WILLIAM
BLACK PANTHER PARTY
KUNSTLER, WHO IS CURRENTLY ACTING FOR BPP MEMBERS
INVOLVED IN LEGAL ACTIONS IN NYC.

MEMO
NO LRM BEING SUBMITTED.

AM COPY BEING SENT TO AT.

END

WA... CORR LI ONE TEXT W S SHD BE YOUNG

WA... LRM FBI WASH DC

IVAN

~~SECRET~~